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PROCEEDINGS and DEBATES in PARLIAMENT. [592.]

THE ſecond reading of the East-India bill [459.] came on in a committee of the Commons, May 4. The preamble paſſed without any oppoſition; but when the clerk read that part which gives the directors the nomination of the judges, Mr Cornwall ſaid, that without a ſingle witneſs examined on ſuch an eſſential alteration in the conſtitution, he could not poſſibly give it his conſent; and that, if the patrons of the bill were not prepared to give him this ſatisfaction, he muſt move that the chairman ſhould leave the chair.

Welbore Ellis ſaid, that it appeared ſtrange to him that ſuch a clauſe ſhould be propoſed; that, according to the conſtitution of this country, all juſtice flowed from the crown; that the crown was not to be robbed of this ancient prerogative without juſt grounds; that whatever prerogatives the crown poſſeſſed, it poſſeſſed for the benefit of the ſubject; and that, when the exerciſe of them did not tend to the benefit of the ſubject, it ought to be diveſted of them; but that it had not yet been proved, that the prerogative in queſtion was of this kind; that, if he was not miſtaken, it was inſeparable, not only from the form, but the eſſence of our conſtitution, and could not be touched without danger; that if it was altered, the reſt of the ſyſtem muſt be altered to make it uni-

form and conſiſtent; that the object of this clauſe of the bill was to ſupply Bengal with a bench of independent judges; but who ſo proper as his Majeſty to chuſe able and independent men? who ſo improper as the directors? His Majeſty could have no intereſt whatever but that of the public to direct his choice; the directors might be influenced by various conſiderations apt to lead them aſtray. What ſo common in Bengal, as to ſee cauſes, in which the company and the directors were deeply concerned, come into courts of juſtice? was it not therefore neceſſary, that the judges ſhould be under no controul from gratitude, from promiſes made on either ſide, from expectation, or apprehenſion? The chief grievance now complained of is the unlimited power of the executive branch, of the council and its dependent magiſtrates; what check ſo proper as ſuch judges? To me they ſeem the beſt counterpoiſe that can poſſibly be placed in the oppoſite ſcale. Theſe thoughts he ſuggeſted, he ſaid, to the conſideration of the Houſe, before they would venture on this meaſure; but deſired them to take notice that he made no motion, as he had not ſufficiently weighed the matter to take a decided part on either ſide.

Mr Thurlow enforced the arguments of Wellbore Ellis; and added, that though the charters of the colonies granted them a legiſlative authority, yet the nomination of the judges was left to the crown as its unalienable prerogative; that the point ſeemed to him ſo eſſential, that if the friends of the bill would not give it up, he would join the Hon. Gentleman who moved that the chair ſhould be left; for that he *had as leif* loſe the bill as ſo invaluable a jewel in his Majeſty's crown.

Richard Whitworth adopted the ſame ſentiments and language.

Mr Sullivan ſaid, that if the attorney-general and his friends meant at this clauſe to make a ſtand againſt this *here* bill, he would ſooner than give up that *there* point, or ſuffer the company for whom he acted to be curtailed of a power which they already poſſeſſed by charter, join him in voting for the chairman's quitting his place.

Sir George Colebroke ſaid,

"Sir, I agree in opinion with the gentlemen who think, that if the nomination of the judges be veſted in his Majeſty, we are likely to be ſupplied with the moſt able and the beſt-qualified perſons. Thoſe will accept offices from him in expectation of higher preferment in conſequence of their good behaviour, who for want of equal proſpects would refuſe the ſame from other men. This I have heard complained of by thoſe who have had occaſion to make the trial. For the Hon. Gentleman who ſays, that the nomination of the judges in all the colonies is veſted in his Majeſty, is miſtaken in the matter of fact. He does not nominate the judges in all the colonies. That power is in ſome lodged in the hands of the proprietors. Why then is it alledged that this is a prerogative inherent and unalienable in the crown? In theſe caſes, as well as in that of the Eaſt-India company, as matters now ſtand, this power (or prerogative if you will) is ſeparated from the crown, and put into other hands. Has any evil ariſen from this alteration in the conſtitution? for it is of too long ſtanding to be called an innovation. I have never heard that juſtice was worſe adminiſtered in the proprietary than in the chartered governments, in thoſe where his Majeſty appoints than in thoſe where he does not appoint. Let us not then hear it more urged, that this clauſe in this *here* bill contains any thing new or unconſtitutional. The crown is certainly more jealous of the ſword than of any other prerogative; yet I never heard it urged as an objection to the Eaſt-India recruiting-bill, brought into the Houſe laſt year, that it gave the directors of the company the nomination of the officers. If the nomination of the judges be ſo important to the crown, how came the nomination of much more important officers not to be claimed? Does the largeneſs of the ſalary propoſed to be given awake miniſterial attention? Be this as it may, I believe the intended appointments will eaſily ſecure men of talents, and men of character. Why then ſhould the company's charter be altered in this particular? Have they not a mutiny-act? Do they not hold courts-martial? May they not with equal propriety hold courts of juſtice under a ſimilar act of parliament? The matter will not admit of diſpute. If officers choſen by them can exerciſe every power of a court-martial, officers of their election may exerciſe every kind of judicial authority."

Mr Wedderburne ſaid,

"I am ſurpriſed to hear the language that

that is now held by the gentleman who brought in this bill (Mr Sullivan). It is much better calculated for the meridian of Calcutta than of Weſtminſter. When it is not moved, but ſimply hinted in modeſt and guarded terms, that the firſt clauſe of this bill demands a little conſideration before it receives your concurrence, the dictator of Leadenhall gets up, and roundly declares, that if you mean to make a ſtand here, and to curtail the company of any of its rights, he will vote for throwing out the bill. Where, and to whom, does he think he is talking? Is this the Houſe of Commons, or the room of the ſecret committee in the India-houſe? I proteſt I am obliged to look round me to ſee whether I cannot recogniſe this to be St Stephen's chapel. I have heard that the committee were monarchs; but ſurely this is not the place to act the monarch. Suppoſe the miniſter, or any other that may happen to ſit in his place, were to bring in a bill, and to tell the Houſe, "This is my bill,—I framed it,—it is my work, and you muſt adopt it in the groſs: if you alter, or but hint that you alter, a ſingle clauſe or iota, I will get up, and tell you, that I will vote for the rejection of the whole." Suppoſe, I ſay, this to be the caſe, how would parliament reliſh ſuch language? It would certainly make the minds of the moſt ſervile revolt. And is it leſs diſguſting in the miniſter of the Eaſt-India company? I beg pardon, he is only the deputy-miniſter. The miniſter of miniſters is my good friend, that Hon. Baronet, who indeed bears all his faculties meekly about him. Nor is the other in general deſtitute of moderation: he is indeed a *prudent* gentleman; but ſway will debauch the chaſteſt minds. Hence he forgot, I ſuppoſe, that he was not here iſſuing his mandates to the empire that he governs. He forgot the terms upon which this bill was allowed to make ſo great a progreſs in the houſe. If I am not miſtaken, all its contents were not agreeable to the ideas of any man; and it was tolerated on the footing only of its being capable of amendment. My Hon. friend and I were called, not to the birth, but to the chriſtening of this foundling; for, I find, that no body avows himſelf as its father. But I do aſſure you, that I did not act as its godfather, nor in any other capacity than that of a gueſt, who was to make merry on ſo joyful an occaſion. And merry, no doubt, we did make; for it was a jolly meeting, as ſuch meetings generally are. Finding that no body would own this hopeful child, I begged to have a ſight of it, and with ſome difficulty it was at length unſwaddled. After examination, I did not find it proper to be adopted by me, and I believe it remains to this hour the child of the public. But, to drop the metaphor, I never gave my conſent to have the ſubſtance of this bill conſidered as approved by me; and I think it was unjuſtifiable in the gentleman who uſhered it into the houſe, to make uſe of my name. Whatever of mine is offered to this reſpectable aſſembly, I would wiſh to be the reſult of reflection, not the crude and unconnected production of a tavern-meeting. Upon the whole, the manner in which this buſineſs has been conducted by the directors, and the readineſs with which the plan is given up, make me ſuſpect, that no ſerious intention was ever entertained of doing any thing deciſive in the affair; that this bill was meant only as a tub to the whale, as ſomething to amuſe parliament, and divert it in the end from taking any part of the management of Eaſt-India concerns from the direction. It was hoped, that tired with the diſcuſſion of ſuch a ſtrange bill, we ſhould at laſt reſign the matter into the hands of the two kings, not of Brentford, but of Leadenhall. Why elſe was the conſideration of ſo important a ſubject put off to the end of the ſeſſion, when few gentlemen attend? A matter of ſuch conſequence ſhould have been brought before us when we were freſh and active; and not now, when we are jaded and fatigued with the toils of a winter-campaign."

Mr Pulteney:

"Sir, I am very far from being of opinion, that the nomination of the judges ſhould be left to the crown, in preference to the directors of the Eaſt-India company; and my reaſon for this opinion is, that the crown has, in ſeveral inſtances, made a ſhameful uſe of this power. The crown nominates the judges in moſt of the colonies, and there are the heavieſt complaints againſt its conduct in that particular. Nor are theſe complaints without juſt grounds. I know them to be well founded; many gentlemen in this houſe know them to be well founded; and, I believe, no man will riſe up and attempt a juſtification. With ſo many recent and notorious inſtances of the crown's miſconduct in ſo eſſential a point, in a point in-

deed the moſt eſſential of all others, as it affects the adminiſtration of juſtice; with ſuch inſtances, I ſay, before my eyes, ſhall I vote for enlarging that authority which I ſee is abuſed? Were I ſo complaiſant, I ſhould very little deſerve the thanks of my conſtituents. What advantage, I beſeech you, will be derived from lodging the nomination in the crown, that you do not enjoy upon the preſent plan? By this bill, the approbation of the chancellor, and the three chief juſtices, muſt be procured; and they will certainly be leſs awed into an approbation of improper perſons by the direction than by the crown. We have therefore, upon the whole, a better chance of ſeeing able and upright men choſen by the company than by the ſovereign.

But, notwithſtanding what I have ſaid, you muſt not imagine that I am a friend to this bill. No, Sir; I ſee it pregnant with too many dangers to give it my concurrence.

In the firſt place, it eſtabliſhes no jury; all proceedings are, as in the court of chancery, to be by bill and anſwer. What, Sir, are the lives of Engliſhmen to be taken away but by the Engliſh laws? Is it abſolutely impoſſible to eſtabliſh the fair and equitable mode of trying men by jury in Bengal? I have never heard any other argument againſt this inſtitution but this, That there is not in Calcutta a ſufficient number of Britiſh ſubjects to ſupply the rotation of juries. Now, Sir, I am informed by thoſe who know the ſtate of that place, that there are in it 300 Britiſh houſeholders, who mean to make it their conſtant abode. Is not this number ſufficient for the preſent? And will not the eſtabliſhment of a proper ſyſtem of laws increaſe them? I think I need not be afraid of being found a falſe prophet, if I anſwer in the affirmative.

In the next place, this bill fixes the number of judges at four. At preſent they are nine, beſides the mayor or chief juſtice. Will you, without any inquiry, reduce them from ten to four? If I underſtand the bill right, it is calculated to increaſe rather than to diminiſh the cauſes that come before them. At preſent, the juriſdiction of the court extends not beyond the ditch of Calcutta; by this new regulation, it will extend not only to all places that now are, but that ever will be, under the dominion of the company in the Bengal provinces. Ought not this conſideration to have led the directors to augment, not to reduce the number of their judges? This is certainly the natural order and progreſs of things. As buſineſs multiplies, we multiply our hands in proportion; but the directors have found out a new way of governing. The queſtion is, Whether we ſhall adopt it in this place?

An Hon. Baronet tells us, that if the preſent mayor's court was ſuch an engine of oppreſſion in the hands of the company, there could not have been ſo many appeals from its deciſions, nor could it have decided ſo many cauſes againſt the company's intereſt. If the Hon. Baronet means to ſpeak of the mayor's court as it ſtood before the laſt charter was granted, he is right. It frequently gave ſentence againſt the company; and this inflexibility was the very reaſon that application was made to parliament for the power of appeal to the Governor and Council, and for the power of making and unmaking the aldermen. Ever ſince that period no abſolute confidence was to be placed in the mayor's court. Yet ſtill the court of appeal has been the chief object of complaint; and with juſtice; for I find that there is hardly an inſtance of application to the King and council from its determinations, where the company has not been caſt. Can a ſtronger proof than this be produced of its iniquitous and arbitrary proceedings?

But my capital objection againſt this bills is, that it does not in the leaſt remedy the tyranny of the double government now ſubſiſting in Bengal. The new court of juſtice is only to take cogniſance of ſuits between Britiſh ſubjects, and between ſuch of the natives as chuſe to apply to its wiſdom: the Britiſh ſubject can have no remedy in this place againſt the Black inhabitants, but muſt have recourſe to the Nabob's courts. Now it is very certain, that moſt tranſactions of the company's ſervants paſs in the country with natives, and in places under the juriſdiction of the Nabob's courts. It is equally certain, that the Nabob is but the mere creature of the company, and will act as the governor and council pleaſe. How eaſy then is it for them, by means of this engine, to oppreſs every man that falls under their diſpleaſure! They have but to ſend their mandate to the Nabob, and he cruſhes the obnoxious perſon beyond the poſſibility of redreſs. Nor is this a matter of mere ſpeculation: The

governor

governor and council have actually adopted this mode of bringing ruin upon thoſe whom they diſliked. What has been, may be again, and it is our buſineſs to embrace every poſſible plan of prevention. The deſpotiſm of this double government has been always the greateſt grievance under which Bengal laboured: ſhall we by a new charter give it our final ſanction and approbation? This would be only rivetting the chains of the unhappy ſufferers, and reſcuing them from the jaws of Scylla, in order to throw them into thoſe of Charybdis."

Governor Johnſtone ſaid, that if the company nominated the judges, the natives of Bengal would have no confidence in their integrity, ſo bad was their opinion of every thing that proceeded from that ſource; that though the crown had abuſed any particular power, that was no argument for its total abolition; that the crown was liable to error, but that its adviſers might and ought to be puniſhed; that the directors acting under a ſtatute, did not ſtand in the ſame predicament; that therefore they might make a bad choice with impunity; that Sir George Colebroke was miſtaken in aſſerting, that, as matters ſtood, the company enjoyed the exerciſe of the ſword, and other marks of ſovereign power; that the framers of their charter had been very cautious in wording it; that they had preſerved the rights of the crown inviolate, and granted them only a delegated authority to act under it in a judicial and military character; that this was ſo true, that as ſoon as an officer with his Majeſty's commiſſion appeared, as ſuch, in India, all their military power ceaſed; and that every military power was, during his ſtay, to be derived from him; that as the attorney-general had truly replied, one of the great objections to the recruiting-bill brought into the houſe laſt ſeſſion, was the very objection made to this bill, that it took away the King's conſtitutional perogative, the nomination of the officers.

Lord North ſaid, that he could not agree with Mr Thurloe on the one ſide, nor with Mr Sullivan on the other; that indeed the nomination of the judges ought to be, and muſt be in the King; but that, though they could not agree about this clauſe, though this clauſe ſhould be entirely rejected, yet there were many other clauſes, which ought to paſs, and he therefore wiſhed the chair ſhould not be left.

Mr Dempſter ſaid, that though, not ſatisfied with the bill in queſtion, he had conſented to have it brought into the houſe, becauſe he had learnt from the beſt authority, that the miniſter had declared he did not wiſh to ſee the miniſtry nominate ſo much as a writer to the company, that as he found he had receded from his promiſe, he was againſt the bill; that the crown was already too powerful; that it had the nomination of too many officers, and that he was afraid that circumſtance had frequently too much influence on the houſe; that he would not throw more weight into a ſcale that was already too heavy; that thus it would proceed from leſs to more, till it ſwallowed up all Bengal; that the Eaſt-India company was certainly an empire within an empire; that it raiſed and paid large armies; that it held courts-martial, and courts of juſtice; that it had a mutiny-act, made peace and war, and exerciſed every other act of ſovereign authority; that therefore no objection could be made to the company's nominating the judges, which might not be made with equal propriety to any or all of theſe acts; that therefore the objection was abſurd, as it went, when purſued to its fulleſt extent, to the annihilation of the company.

Upon a diviſion, the chairman kept his place.

Anecdotes of the Domeſtic Life of the King of PRUSSIA.

THE King beſtows the morning on the affairs of his kingdom; and it ſeems as if this time was well employed. He then reads all the petitions which are preſented to him, and ſometimes anſwers them. I have ſeen ſeveral letters written by himſelf to Frenchmen, or his own ſubjects, who have demanded juſtice of him. He has deigned ſometimes to appoint a day to ſearch into their grievances. The King always dines early. He admits every day, at a table which joins with his own, twenty or five and twenty perſons: theſe conſiſt of princes, general officers, or ſome celebrated men, whoſe ſuperior talents have elevated them to the firſt rank. During my reſidence at Potſdam, I ſaw the Marquis d'Argens and M. d'Alembert eat ſeveral times with his Majeſty.

The King has read much, and to advantage. Quintus Curtius is one of the books he takes great delight in. His heart beats high at the relation of Alex-

ander's

ander's actions: he is never weary with ſtudying his military operations, his marches, his ſieges, his victories; every thing affects him in the life of that hero. More ſagacious than the prince whom he has taken for his model, who was poſſeſſed of courage and raſhneſs, he does not endeavour to ſpread terror around him, or trouble the people who repoſe in the vale of peace; he contents himſelf with obſerving his kingdoms flouriſh, and preſerving them from the inroads of enemies.

In the evening the King amuſes himſelf with muſic; he plays very well upon the flute, and touches the *adagios* with prodigious grace. After the concert, he ſups with five or ſix of his favourites. It is at this repaſt that he delivers himſelf with the eaſy familiarity of a gay mind, and gives himſelf up to wit and pleaſure. If in the height of friendſhip he lays aſide the king, he gains the love of thoſe around him. Imperious dignity is an antidote to true pleaſure; the ſmile in ſuch is never ſeen on *the lips*.

About a quarter of a league from Potſdam is a very pretty royal houſe called *Sans Souci*. It is ſituated upon a ſmall hill; the gardens are elegantly laid out, and preſerved in good order. The King ſometimes gives little ſuppers there, and forgets his fatigues in the pleaſures of Bellona and the Muſes. He never plays, nor does he ever attend the chace, although there is plenty of all kinds of game in the woods capable of affording diverſion. He never travels at great expence, nor far, as he does not wiſh to ſee the diſtreſſes of his ſubjects, by going amongſt them. The ſtrangers who reſort to the court of Potſdam are ſurpriſed at the little luxury to be obſerved there. The King is always dreſſed in uniform, and the different noblemen dreſs themſelves in the manner becoming men who ſtyle themſelves the defenders of their country, and ſupporters of the throne.

I ſhall conclude this ſhort ſketch by obſerving, that the King of Pruſſia is a moſt worthy governor. He is poſſeſſed of both military and legiſlative knowledge. He is gracious, equitable, and an œconomiſt, although generous. I need not ſpeak of the agreeable talents which he cultivates; all the world know his works, and have read with pleaſure his Memoirs of Brandenburg [xiv. 475.]. After having enriched his kingdom, and rendered his troops formidable to the powers which ſurround him, he employs himſelf in forming a prince to ſucceed him, and make him the happineſs of his ſubjects.

A ſhort ſketch of the hiſtory and preſent ſtate of Poland; with a Map of the country, exhibiting the provinces of which it has been diveſted by the late partition-treaty.

BEfore the commencement of the preſent war, the kingdom of Poland, with the Great Duchy of Lithuania annexed, was bounded on the north by part of Muſcovy, Pomerania, and the Baltic ſea; on the ſouth, by the Carpathian mountains; on the eaſt, by the Ukrain and part of Muſcovy; and on the weſt, by Bohemia, Sileſia, and part of Brandenburg. It extended from ſouth to north about 600 miles, and from eaſt to weſt 720 nearly; and had the form of its government been as perfect as its ſituation was compact, it might have been one of the moſt powerful kingdoms in the univerſe.

Walachia and Moldavia were formerly ſubject to the Kings of Poland; but they have for many centuries paſt choſen their own Hoſpidars, and are at preſent tributary to the Ottoman Porte. The Turks and Tartars have made themſelves maſters of the beſt part of Podolia, and the Ruſſians have now all Polonian Livonia on the north-eaſt, and the greateſt part of that fine country which unites Livonia to the Ukrain by means of the Dwina and the Nieper, comprehending Polocks, Wytepſk, part of Minſki, all Mſcyſlaw, and the backs of the Nieper as far as the country of the Old Coſſocks. The Auſtrians have, alſo, by the late treaty, acquired the greateſt part of Red Ruſſia, part of Cracovia, Chelm, the country between the Weizel and the Bog, croſſing from Sendomir to the confines of Volhynia, and paſſing Podolia on the right, joins Hungary at the foot of the Carpathian mountains, including Pocutia, and the right bank of the Neiſter as far as Dzwingrod. His Pruſſian Majeſty has alſo ſtript Poland on the eaſt, of Pomerania, part of Poliſh Pruſſia, the March of Brandenburg, Great Poland, and other territories, to the ſovereignty of which his Majeſty has revived an ancient claim by a manifeſto circulated throughout Europe, which proves that *nullum tempus occurrit Regi**.

But

* The King of Pruſſia, in the manifeſto above referred to, not only declares his determined

But though his Pruſſian Majeſty, in the reſcript juſt mentioned, exempts the free cities of Dantzick and Thorn from his juriſdiction; yet he has garriſoned the latter with his troops, and laid a duty on all ſhips paſſing to or from the former upon the Viſtula, by which he extorts a revenue equal to a tax upon the whole city; beſides eſtabliſhing a poſt-office on the border of the city-liberties, the profits of which he converts to his own uſe.

The liberties and privileges which the Nobles of Poland now claim, were not always enjoyed by them in their full extent: for though their Dukes or Kings were elective from the beginning, yet after either one or the other was once choſen, he had a kind of abſolute power in public affairs, which his conſtituents could not controul. Boleſlaus was the firſt who inſtituted the Senatorial order in Poland, in 1235; but the convocation of the diet, by which the ſovereign authority was abridged, did not take place till the middle of the fourteenth century, when Caſimer IV. conſenting to aſſemble the ſtates upon every occaſion of importance, the government began to aſſume the form under which it now ſubſiſts; except that on every new election of a King, ſome new conceſſions have been obtained in favour of the commonwealth.

The prerogative of the Kings of Poland conſiſts chiefly of three articles. 1. In convoking upon certain occaſions an extraordinary diet of the ſtates, when and where he pleaſes, and putting a negative upon all laws which he may diſlike. 2. In caſe of a war, he may, if he pleaſes, put himſelf at the head of the army, and then his command is abſolute. 3. He has the ſole nomination, *under certain reſtrictions*, to all the great offices, benefices, and employments, civil, military, and eccleſiaſtical.

The current coin of the kingdom alſo bears his image and name. He has his Poliſh, German, and Hungarian guards, and the ſame officers of the houſehold, as other kings have; and he has a certain revenue allowed for the ſupport of the royal dignity.

But he can neither make war or conclude peace, enact laws, or levy taxes, without conſent of the diet; and by an article of agreement between Poland and Lithuania, every third diet is to be held at Grodno. He can neither prolong the diet beyond the time limited by the conſtitution, nor diſſolve it ſooner without the conſent of the members who compoſe it. In the nomination to the high dignities of the ſtate, he is alſo limited. He cannot name his children, or Queen, or any relation whatever, if not properly qualified, to any of the great offices: nor can he promote any but natives, and even theſe muſt be noblemen or gentlemen of eſtates, to any place of truſt and command, in their reſpective provinces; nor, after they are appointed, can he diſplace them on any pretence whatever. He is alſo reſtrained from purchaſing land, which is the only thing that gives conſequence in Poland, in order to aggrandize his family, without conſent of the diet.

With regard to the military, though, as has been already obſerved, he is commander in chief while he is perſonally preſent, yet he cannot name his ſucceſſor; but, the moment he relinquiſhes, the Crown-General aſſumes the ſupreme command, and is as abſolute in point of authority, as the King himſelf when in the ſame ſtation. The poſt of Crown-General is alſo for life; ſo that, to be reſpected, the Kings of Poland ſhould always be at the head of their own armies. And ſhould a King of a martial diſpoſition ariſe, it would be eaſy for him not only to render himſelf abſolute, but to make the crown hereditary in his family.

Had the preſent King of Pruſſia ſucceeded to the throne of Poland, Poland, under Providence, would at this day have been the moſt formidable monarchy the world ever beheld. The ſituation of Poland; the fertility of its ſoil; the genius of the people, formed by Nature for war and agriculture; the noble rivers by which the country is every-where plentifully ſupplied with water, either for navigation, or the purpoſes of improving land; all theſe combine to inſpire, in a military hero, the deſire of conqueſt. The army of Poland could never be diſtreſſed for want of proviſions, while one part of its inhabitants were employed in cultivating the earth, and another in tranſporting

mined reſolution to aſſert his right to the diſtricts of Great Poland on this ſide the Neiſter, and to all the countries of Pruſſia and Pomerania, both on this and the other ſide the Viſtula, which the crown of Poland has held under the name of *Poliſh Pruſſia*; but alſo to uſe the power which God has put in his hands to obtain adequate ſatisfaction for the unjuſt detention of thoſe provinces from himſelf and his anceſtors for many ages paſt.

porting the produce of it where-ever it might be wanted. But the Governor of the univerſe, in pity to the neighbouring nations, has hitherto with-held from the throne of Poland a king capable of improving theſe advantages to the advancement of his own glory. The preſent King of Poland, exalted to the royal dignity by chance, is a ſtranger to the great duties of the imperial office. He ſuffers his kingdom to be torn and diſmembered by foreign ſtates, while he tamely ſits upon the throne, and ſees his own ſubjects embroiled in civil diſſenſions, without exerting one effort to unite them againſt the common enemies of the ſtate.

It is unhappy for Poland, that the Roman-Catholic religion ſhould be the eſtabliſhed religion of the court. For though liberty of conſcience is profeſſedly ſtipulated, and almoſt every other religion in the world is countenanced, except that which is moſt prevalent, and therefore moſt likely to gain the aſcendency, there is yet ſo great an antipathy among the eccleſiaſtics of the eſtabliſhed church againſt their competitors, the Greeks, commonly known by the name of *Diſſidents*, that they have rather choſen to involve their country in the moſt ſanguinary ſcenes of cruelty, than ſubmit to ſhare the eccleſiaſtical authority, in common with fellow-chriſtians, who profeſs to believe in the ſame Saviour, and pay adoration to the ſame God. Hence it is, that confederacies have been formed among the Catholics, while their country was deluged in blood by foreign armies, to maſſacre their fellow-ſubjects, and, if it were poſſible, to root out the Diſſidents from the face of the earth. Theſe confederacies have not been oppoſed by thoſe againſt whom they were formed; but by the armies of a neighbouring Empreſs, who, touched with the calamities of a paſſive people, hath taken vengeance on their perſecutors, and extended her protection to the unhappy ſufferers. Can it be credited, that the peaceable inhabitants of whole towns and villages have been put to the ſword, in Poland, and men, women, and innocent babes at the breaſt, ſtabbed, and inhumanly put to death, by their fellow-ſubjects, for no other reaſon but that they happened to be born of parents educated in a way of worſhip which differed from that of their brutal murderers? Can the maker of man be pleaſed with theſe deſtroyers of man? Surely, if theſe murderers were endued with the faculties of reaſonable thinking beings, they could not be prevailed upon to imbark in ſo diabolical a cauſe, or execute the bloody purpoſes of a vindictive prieſthood upon the innocent victims of religious pride.

Encouraged, however, by theſe internal diviſions, by which the natural ſtrength of the ſtate is enfeebled, and ſecure in the weakneſs of a prince who has hitherto diſtinguiſhed himſelf by no one act of magnanimous enterpriſe, a treaty has taken place by three contiguous powers, to ſhare among themſelves territories to which they can have no lawful claim, and to add to their dominions countries, the fineſt in the world, of which the preſent monarch is unworthy, becauſe incapable to govern, and unable to defend them. *Gent. Mag.*

Mr URBAN, *Shropſhire* 1772.

LOoking over ſome old books lately, I met with an Hiſtory of Ireland, printed in 1683, and dedicated to James Duke of York; in which the author, treating of a place named *Moycullin*, in the county of Galway, ſays thus. "This was my native place, and the patrimony of my anceſtors for many generations. It was a manor, exempted by charters of our kings from tribute, had the privilege of a fair and market, and honoured with the court of a ſeneſchal to determine ſuits. Being deprived of my father at two months old, I became, by the laws of my country, a ward to the King; and, according to the cuſtom of the kingdom, paid money for his protection. But before the law allowed me to take poſſeſſion of my inheritance, I loſt my guardian, by the murder of my King (Charles I.) when I was nineteen years old; and the royal heir (Charles II.), ſix months younger than me, was forced to ſeek his bread in foreign realms. God wonderfully reſtored the royal heir to his kingdoms, without war and effuſion of blood, to the ſatisfaction of all good men. But he did not find me worthy to be reſtored to the kingdom of my cottage. Againſt thee only, O Lord, have I ſinned. Bleſſed be the name of the Lord for ever!" The name of this author was *Roderick O'Flagharty, Eſq*; I ſhall be obliged to any of your learned correſpondents, who can give me an account of this remarkable perſon.

Yours, S. W.

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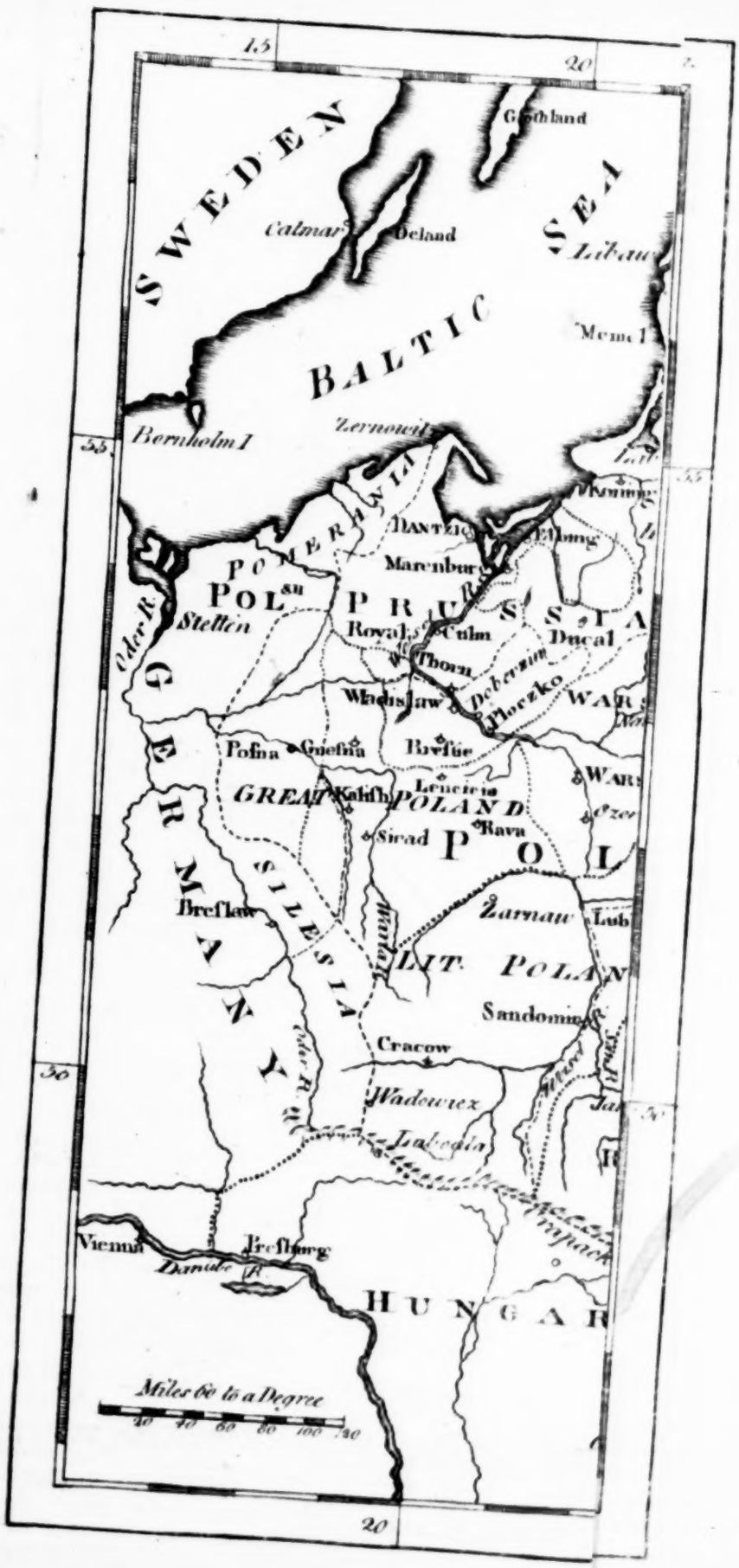

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Yours, S. W.

A MAP of POLAND with its APPENDAGES shewing the late Partition of that KINGDOM

Dedd. from London

C. Bell Sculp.

The Hiſtory of Europe for 1771. [615.]

Germany, Sweden, France, and Corſica.

Notwithſtanding the bleſſings of peace, the year of which we treat has been productive of uncommon calamities in Germany. A courſe of inclement or irregular ſeaſons in ſome countries, and the miſeries of war in others, had occaſioned a general ſcarcity of corn, which was more or leſs felt in every part of Europe. Indeed the firſt of theſe cauſes, as well as the effect, was unhappily extended to ſome of the remoteſt parts of the globe, of which Bengal, and ſeveral countries in the ſouthern hemiſphere, afforded melancholy examples.

In moſt parts of Germany and Bohemia, the ſcarcity was ſo great, that a ſevere famine prevailed, and great numbers of people unhappily periſhed for want of food. The extreme ſeverity of the winter added much to the diſtreſſes of the people; who were obliged in many parts to ſtrip the thatch off their houſes, and endeavour to keep their cattle alive, by feeding them with it. The ſpring was not more favourable. The unuſual quantity of ſnow which lay on the mountains being then melted, fell down in torrents on the level country, and ſwept every thing before it; and the great rivers having burſt through their ancient boundaries, ſcenes of confuſion, terror, and diſtreſs, were ſpread on every ſide.

The ſummer had ſtill greater evils in ſtore. The continual rains which fell from the latter end of May, through the whole month of June, and part of July, preſented in the level countries the appearance of a ſecond deluge. The inundations of the Elbe were particularly dreadful, and the damage incredible. Many parts of the Lower Saxony, of the Old Marche of Brandenburg, and of the other countries that border upon that river, particularly in the lower part of its courſe towards the ſea, were totally ruined. Hamburg was in a moſt critical and diſtreſſed ſituation. The inundation entered ſome of the gates; and all the heads and hands of its numerous citizens were occupied for ſeveral days, in ſchemes and endeavours, either to divert its courſe, or to prevent its farther progreſs. A public faſt was ordained, as for the greateſt calamity. The great ſuburb towards the Elbe, of two Engliſh miles in extent, with the fine country-houſes and gardens of the citizens, were ſo entirely covered with water, that only the tops of the trees were diſcernible. The whole damage to Hamburg only was eſtimated at 200,000 l. Sterling.

The different princes and ſtates did every thing in their power to alleviate the diſtreſſes of the people; but as corn was alſo ſcarce in other countries, the ſupplies they could procure were very diſproportionable to their wants. Whatever apprehenſion or intention of war had operated upon the King of Pruſſia in the beginning of the year, he at that time purchaſed prodigious quantities of corn to ſupply his magazines, and had afterwards, upon the ſame account, prevented or impeded the conveyance of corn by the Viſtula from Poland to Dantzick. Both theſe circumſtances contributed much to the general diſtreſs of Germany.

A riot having happened at Prague on account of the ſcarcity, the Governor told the people, if they did not diſperſe, he would order the troops to fire upon them; to which they anſwered with great coolneſs and indifference, that they would look upon the execution of his menaces as a favour, a ſudden death by a ſhot being much preferable to a ſlow one by famine. The Governor had prudence and humanity enough to refrain from fulfilling his threat; and having tranſmitted an account of the tranſaction to the Empreſs-Queen, that princeſs burſt into tears, and ſent them immediate relief.

Bavaria, which was the uſual granary of ſeveral of the neighbouring territories, was now in the deepeſt diſtreſs; and the people having attributed it to ſome maladminiſtration in the conduct of public affairs, the Elector being upon the road to Nymphenburg, was ſurpriſed to find his coach ſurrounded by a great multitude of people, who cried out, that they did not mean to hurt his perſon, but demanded the immediate diſmiſſion of four of his principal miniſters of ſtate, whom they named, and to whom they attributed their preſent immediate diſtreſſes, as well as all the other misfortunes of their country. Upon this extraordinary demand, the Elector ordered his guards to diſperſe the populace; with which they abſolutely refuſed to comply: and he was in that ſituation reduced to the neceſſity of being obliged to promiſe to redreſs all the grievances of his people. We do not find that this promiſe was kept:

kept: and the contrary ſeems to have been the caſe, as the garriſon of Munich, together with his guards, were immediately augmented to three times their uſual number.

As the neceſſity that now prevailed occaſioned a ſtrict ſearch and inſpection into the magazines and ſtorehouſes at Munich, one hundred great barrels of flour were found in one of them, which had lain in it ever ſince the year 1632, when the great Guſtavus Adolphus ravaged Bavaria. Though this flour was found, upon examination, to be grown into a hard ſubſtance, that appeared like a kind of ſtone, it was however thought not to be totally uſeleſs; and being accordingly prepared, and mixed with freſh meal, was diſtributed in bread to the poor. However indifferent this might have been, it was probably much better than the bread which the people about Augſburg were obliged to make uſe of, which was compoſed of the bark of beech and alder, mixed with a ſmall quantity of ſome ſpice.

Things carried much the appearance of war, both at Vienna and Berlin, at the beginning of the year, though the politicians were much at a loſs to judge what direction the ſtorm would have taken. A great promotion of general officers took place at the former: 18,000 recruits were demanded from Hungary, inſtead of 6000, which was the former complement; and 30,000 from Bohemia: vaſt bodies of men were marched to Moravia, Tranſylvania, and the borders of Hungary, and great quantities of heavy artillery were ſent down the Danube. Every thing beſpoke ſome great event at hand. It is not improbable that the great ſcarcity of corn, and the public calamities which afterwards took place, contributed to the preſervation of the general tranquillity. It was ſaid, that the King of Pruſſia was beforehand with the Emperor in filling his magazines; a meaſure which the latter afterwards found impracticable.

Whatever the political views of the court of Vienna were at that time, it is probable that they have been ſince changed, and that a new arrangement has taken place between that court and thoſe of Peterſburg and Berlin, to the ſatisfaction of the three. Notwithſtanding theſe warlike appearances, the court of Vienna, in concert with that of Berlin, has acted the part of a mediator between the belligerent powers; and various propoſitions relative to a peace have been tranſmitted through the hands of their miniſters at the Porte. Mr Obreſcow, the Ruſſian miniſter at Conſtantinople, who was impriſoned at the beginning of the war, has alſo been enlarged through the influence of the court of Vienna.

A body of Auſtrian troops marched into Poland in the month of June, and took poſſeſſion of ſeveral diſtricts there, under pretence of ſome claim which the Empreſs-Queen made to them; upon which account, as ſhe conſidered the inhabitants as her ſubjects, ſhe would protect them from the ravages that ruined the reſt of the country, until her claim to thoſe territories could be properly made out and adjuſted. Theſe troops have been ſince increaſed to a conſiderable army. Some of the Poliſh nobility remonſtrated upon this meaſure, but without any redreſs. The heads of the Confederates had before preſented a memorial to the Emperor, in which they hoped, that the great force he had aſſembled on their frontiers was intended to reſtore their liberties, and generouſly relieve their country from the dreadful calamities ſhe laboured under; or at leaſt, if that was not the motive, that they relied upon his clemency and generoſity, not to take any advantage of her preſent deplorable ſituation.

The conduct of the Pruſſians, who, firſt under pretence of forming a line to prevent the ſpreading of the infection, and afterwards of protecting the inhabitants from the exorbitancies of the Confederates, had ſent ſeveral conſiderable bodies of troops into Regal or Poliſh Pruſſia, was oppreſſive and arbitrary in the higheſt degree: exceſſive contributions were raiſed. Dantzick in particular, and its territories, ſuffered ſeverely. If the generally received opinion be well founded, that this province is to be diſmembered from the republic of Poland, and added to the dominions of Pruſſia, the inhabitants have already had a diſmal foretaſte of the wretchedneſs they are to experience under an arbitrary and military government.

The viſit which Prince Henry of Pruſſia made to the court of Peterſburg in the latter part of the foregoing year, was probably in a great meaſure deciſive of the fate of Poland; at leaſt there is little room for doubting, that the arrangements to be made were then concluded upon,

upon, ſo far as they related to two of the great parties who were to be its arbiters. Whatever effect theſe meaſures may have upon the ſtate and government of that country in particular, there is every reaſon to think, that they will for the preſent be the means of re-eſtabliſhing the general tranquillity. Indeed if the apparent conſent and union upon this ſubject, between the two great Germanic powers and the court of Peterſburg, be real, as it appears at preſent to be, we know of no force ſufficient to counteract their deſigns, or to prevent the full completion of them.

The ſudden death of the King of Sweden, Feb. 12. and the acceſſion of the Prince-Royal, his ſucceſſor, has cauſed no change, either in the general ſyſtem of Europe, or in the particular ſtate of that kingdom. The preſent King, and his brother, Prince Frederick Adolphus, had ſet out ſome time before upon their travels to ſee the principal countries in Europe, and were in Paris at the time they received that account. If the abſence of a preſumptive heir, upon ſuch an occaſion, might in ſome other caſes be not totally unattended with difficulty or danger, the free government of Sweden afforded no apprehenſion of that nature. The ſenate met early in the morning of the day which ſucceeded that event, and iſſued immediate orders for proclaiming the preſent King; which was done in the uſual forms, without the ſmalleſt diſturbance.

The new King, notwithſtanding the account of his father's death, did not quit Paris till towards the end of March. His viſit thither was not merely a matter of pleaſure. France was in arrear to Sweden, upon the old ſubſidy-treaty, to the amount of ſix millions of livres; a ſum of great importance to the limited monarch of a country not abounding in gold and ſilver; but in the preſent particular circumſtances, was an object of ſtill greater conſequence. The court of Verſailles ſettled this matter with its uſual addreſs, and much to the ſatisfaction of the new King. One fourth of the money was immediately paid; and the remainder of the debt is to be liquidated by three ſucceſſive yearly payments: at the ſame time the treaty was renewed, without its being clogged with the requiſition of any new conditions, or made diſagreeable by heſitation or doubts: A conduct which carried an appearance of candour, good faith, and diſintereſtedneſs, naturally pleaſing to a young prince.

The King, upon the arrival of the diploma which notified his acceſſion to the throne, March 15. immediately wrote a declaration from Paris to the ſenate; in which he gave the ſtrongeſt and moſt ſolemn aſſurances, that at the price of his life and his blood, he would maintain the purity of their doctrine, and defend their rights and liberties; declared his abhorrence of all violence; and by the ſolemn aſſurances he had already given, and upon his word as a King, that he would, not only in the government of his kingdom fulfil in all points whatever the laws and the conſtitution preſcribed, and conformably to the form of regency of the year 1720, to which he had already ſworn, but that he would look upon, as the declared enemies of his perſon and kingdom, and as the moſt notorious traitors to the country, all thoſe who ſecretly or openly, on any pretence whatſoever, ſhould ſeek to introduce again an unlimited authority, or what is called *ſovereignty*. This declaration was concluded with the adjuration of "So help me God;" and ſigned GUSTAVUS.

The Swediſh King paſſed ſome days with his uncle, the King of Pruſſia, upon his return home; and having at length arrived at Stockholm, May 30. was received by the people with the greateſt appearances of joy. At his firſt appearance in the ſenate, he again renewed his aſſurances of governing according to the laws, and of endeavouring in every manner to make the people happy. He ſeemed alſo to apply himſelf aſſiduouſly to the acquiring of popularity; and having ſet apart three days in the week for giving audience to the people, he received, without diſtinction, all who preſented themſelves. Upon theſe occaſions, he laid by the trappings of royalty, and all appearance of ſtate, heard the complaints of the people with the greateſt temper and patience, and entered into the minuteſt details with them, upon every thing that related to the ſubject. Beſides redreſſing their grievances, and doing them all the acts of juſtice in his power, he informed himſelf of their private affairs, and converſed familiarly upon them, in the language and character of a father and friend: ſo that thoſe who received no benefit, departed ſatisfied; and all were equally charmed with the King's condeſcenſion and manner. Such a con-

duct, if perſevered in, cannot fail of producing the deſired effect.

The Swedes are divided, as we are in England, into two great parties, who are diſtinguiſhed by the peculiar names of *hats* and *caps*; the former being thoſe who eſpouſe the intereſt of the court; and the latter, the country or patriotic party. The principles of one are, to extend the power of the crown; and of the other, to confine it ſtrictly within the limits preſcribed by the capitulations of the year 1720, at the time the ſtates preſented the government of the kingdom to the hereditary Prince of Heſſe.

Great exertions were made by both parties in the elections for the enſuing diet, which took place during the King's abſence, and in which the caps, contrary to expectation, were thought to have much the ſuperiority. This was the leſs to be expected, as beſides the many circumſtances favourable to his intereſt, which generally attend the acceſſion of a new, and particularly of a young Prince, the preſent King had alſo the advantage of being a native of Sweden; a matter of the greater importance, as both his immediate predeceſſors were foreigners.

The King made a ſpeech at the opening of the diet, June 25, which has been much admired, eſpecially in thoſe countries, where, from the nature of the government, addreſſes of ſuch a kind, from the prince to the people, are not cuſtomary. It certainly contained ſeveral noble and generous ſentiments. Among other profeſſions, he declared, that, born and educated among them, he had learned from his earlieſt youth to love his country; that he conſidered it as the greateſt happineſs to be a Swede, and as the greateſt glory, to be the firſt citizen of a free country; that to ſee it happy was the firſt object of his wiſhes, and to govern it free and independent, the laſt object of his ambition: and concluded, by deſiring in the moſt endearing terms, that theſe may not be conſidered as empty profeſſions, belied perhaps by the ſecret motions of his heart; but as the faithful expreſſions of what that heart felt, which was too upright not to be ſincere, and too haughty ever to be falſe to its engagements.

The happy effects of concord and union, and the fatal conſequences of diviſions among themſelves, were much dwelt upon in this ſpeech; the evident drift of which was, to reconcile, as far as it could be done, the contending parties; and at leaſt, by leſſening their animoſity, and removing all jealouſies of the crown, to ſoften the temper of oppoſition, in ſuch a manner, as that ſome favourite points which were in view, might be gained in the courſe of the diet. The ſpeech gave univerſal ſatisfaction to both parties; and a grand deputation was appointed next day to return thanks for it, and to requeſt that it might be printed.

Notwithſtanding theſe favourable appearances, the oppoſition in the diet was too ſtrong to be overcome, and too firm to be cajolled. They knew, that princes are too generally as little ſcrupulous of breaking through their profeſſions, when they find themſelves poſſeſſed of ſufficient power to enable them to do it with ſafety, as they are free in making them, in order to attain that power. The great object of the court-party was, to obtain a relaxation of thoſe capitulations, which every king at his coronation is obliged to ſubſcribe to, and to confirm by his oath as well as his ſignature. Theſe capitulations are a kind of bond or obligation from the King to the people, which conſiſt of a great number of articles, and reſtrict the power of the crown within very narrow limits indeed. The wiſdom of Sweden has not left thoſe rewards in the hands of the crown, which might have inſured ſucceſs to an attempt of this nature. Being thus left to their natural and undiſguiſed ſentiments, the jealouſy of the Swedes got the better of their complaiſance to the crown, and of the favourable opinion they entertained of the reigning prince. This matter, however, prevented the coronation from taking place, until the enſuing year.

The noble efforts of (that faithful repoſitory of the laws, and remembrancer of the ancient rights of the people) the parliament of Paris, in the cauſe of liberty and mankind, have fatally terminated in its own final diſſolution. Its fall was not more glorious from the cauſe in which it was engaged, than from the circumſtances that attended it; ſeveral of the other parliaments having become voluntary ſacrifices at its funeral pire.

That ancient ſpirit, from which the Franks derive their name, though ſtill glorioufly alive in the breaſts of a few, no longer exiſts in the bulk of the people. Long dazzled with the ſplendor of a magnificent and voluptuous court, with the glare of a vaſt military power, and with

with the glory of ſome great monarchs, they cannot now, in the grave light of the ſhade, behold things in their natural ſtate. Nor can thoſe who have been long uſed to ſubmit without inquiry, to every act of power, who have been ſucceſsfully encouraged in diſſipation, and taught to trifle with the moſt important ſubjects, ſuddenly acquire that ſtrength and tenor of mind, which is alone capable of forming great reſolutions, and of undertaking arduous and dangerous taſks. Thus has this great revolution in the hiſtory and government of France, taken place without the ſmalleſt commotion, or without the oppoſition that in other periods would have attended an infraction of the heritable juriſdiction of a petty vaſſal.

The parliament of Paris having perſiſted in its refuſal, towards the cloſe of the laſt year, to regiſter an edict of the King's; by which they were to acknowledge, as a law of the ſtate, the indiſpenſable obligation of all the ſovereign courts to regiſter any edicts he addreſſed to them, even though in oppoſition to their own remonſtrances, if he thought proper to perſiſt in enforcing the execution of his will; they were at length ſummoned to attend a bed of juſtice at Verſailles, Dec. 7. 1770, where the King acted in perſon, and the edict was obliged to be regiſtered. The parliament had previouſly entered proteſts againſt every thing that ſhould be done at the bed of juſtice, as the effect of a force which they could not reſiſt, but which they neither ought, nor could aſſent to, being contrary to the laws, which they were ſworn to defend, and under which alone they had any right to act.

The parliament having again aſſembled, deputed the firſt preſident, to the King, with a ſupplication to withdraw his edict, or elſe to make him, after the example of the ancient magiſtrates, their predeceſſors, the unanimous offer of their employments and their heads; voluntary, yet indiſpenſable ſacrifices, when the conſtitution is attacked.

The King's anſwer to the firſt preſident was, That the conduct of the parliament ſufficiently proved the neceſſity of the law which he had cauſed to be regiſtered; and concluded with a peremptory command, that they ſhould reſume their functions. This anſwer produced another deputation; by which reiterated repreſentations were made, of the impoſſibility of regiſtering the edict, as the act, being contrary to the law, was in itſelf null and void; and concluded with the following remarkable words: "Your edict, Sire, is deſtructive of all law; your parliament is charged to maintain law; and the law periſhing, they ſhould periſh with it. Theſe are, Sire, the laſt words of your parliament."

Some time after, letters were iſſued by the King, commanding the parliament to reſume their functions, and proceed on buſineſs; with which they abſolutely refuſed to comply. Thus matters continued for ſome time after the opening of the year. At length, the King ſent a meſſage to the parliament, that if they did not obey his letters of juſſion, and reſume their functions, he would remove the magiſtrates from their employments; and that it was in vain for them to continue their oppoſition, from any hope that he would either withdraw his edict, or even ſuſpend the execution of it. To which it was anſwered, that they could not obey the King's letters; but that they would wait for his Majeſty's orders with equal reſolution and ſubmiſſion.

The final reſolution was now taken; and a party of muſquetaires went at night, Jan. 19. to moſt of the members at their own houſes, and preſented to each of them a lettre de cachet, which injoined them to declare immediately, whether they would reſume their uſual duty, or perſiſt in their refuſal: in teſtimony whereof, they were to ſign, Yes, or, No. They were informed at the ſame time, that their refuſal would be conſidered as an act of diſobedience. The greater part ſigned No: ſome were ſurpriſed in the confuſion, to ſign Yes, who afterwards retracted: and a conſiderable number refuſed to explain themſelves, ſaying, that as private men, they were all ſubmiſſion to the King's orders, but that as magiſtrates, they could do nothing ſeparately. About forty, who had not been ſerved with lettres de cachet, went to the parliament-houſe two days after, with the firſt preſident at their head, amidſt the acclamations of the people, and paſſed an act againſt what had been done, merely to put themſelves in the ſame predicament with their brethren.

When the members went to court to receive their diſmiſſion, previous to their baniſhment, three of them propoſed to relax in their oppoſition; and repreſented, that it would be prudent to hold

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ſome meaſures with the court: but the propoſal was received with the utmoſt horror, and rejected with the greateſt indignation by the reſt. M. Dubois de Courvel, who had been ill of the gout, and kept his bed for three months, having been ſurpriſed into ſigning Yes, was carried upon this occaſion to court, proteſted againſt what he had done, and received ſentence along with the reſt. They were all baniſhed to inconſiderable villages, ſome near, and others at a conſiderable diſtance from Paris.

Such was the fate of this noble aſſembly, whoſe patriotiſm and virtue we ſhall hold the higher, when we conſider, that they purchaſe their places at ſo high a price, that it makes no inconſiderable addition to the revenue of the crown. Among a number of inſtances of tranſcendent virtue, which would have done honour to the Greek or Roman name in their beſt days, we cannot omit that of M. Gilbert de Voiſin, chief ſecretary of the parliament. This gentleman's place coſt him a million of livres, and brought him in 100,000 annually: he was ordered by the King to reſume his office in the new tribunal; upon which he repreſented, That his honour, his duty, and his conſcience, did not permit him to perform the functions of an office which was no more; that he had taken his oath to the parliament, and could not exerciſe his functions, but in concert with that parliament; that he would never ſeparate himſelf from ſo reſpectable a body, and therefore offered the King his place, and prayed that his lot might be made ſimilar to that of the other members of his company. The King, notwithſtanding this anſwer, renewed his commands; but M. Voiſin was immoveable. His place was at length confiſcated, and himſelf baniſhed to Languedoc.

A temporary tribunal was inſtituted to ſupply the place of the parliament: the King's counſel, who had deſired leave to reſign their places, but were refuſed, were obliged to act in this tribunal; which they did, the firſt time, with tears in their eyes: ſeveral officers of the parliament had run away to avoid acting under this new juriſdiction, but were obliged to return, under penalty of impriſonment, loſs of their offices, and their children being declared unworthy to hold any employment in the kingdom. Though the part acted by the counſellors in ſupplying the place of the parliament, was an evident force put upon them; yet ſo odious was the meaſure to the people, that they were obliged to have a guard of ſoldiers for their protection, and were, notwithſtanding, hiſſed and inſulted, with the chancellor at their head.

While matters continued in this ſtate, there was ſtill a hope of the reſtoration of the parliament: and even the members of this new tribunal, with the attorney-general, who was now their preſident, at their head, had prepared a memorial for that purpoſe, till the King having heard of their intention, forbid its being delivered. But theſe hopes were ſoon at an end. The King held a bed of juſtice, Feb. 22. at which an edict was paſſed, declaring, that as the juriſdiction of the parliament was too extenſive, reaching from Lyons to Arras in Flanders, it was thought proper to divide it into ſix different parts, under the denomination of ſuperior courts, each court to have a ſimilar juriſdiction, and to be held at Arras, Blois, Clermont, Lyons, Poictiers, and Paris. At the ſame time, the quality, number, and ſalaries of the officers in each tribunal, were fixed, and every other meaſure taken, that ſhewed this new arrangement was intended to be permanent.

The other parliaments, particularly thoſe of Rouen and Rennes, had hitherto been neither ſilent nor inactive in regard to the treatment which that of Paris had met with. The firſt of thoſe had iſſued an arret, which loudly condemned the whole proceeding, and which was delivered by the Duke of Orleans in perſon to the King; who was equally offended with the matter of the arret, and with that prince, for preſenting it. A memorial had alſo been preſented on the ſame ſubject, ſigned by many of the Peers, and all the Princes of the Blood, except the Count de la Marche, which was more unpleaſing even than the arret. Still, however, it was thought, that nothing more was to be apprehended than a temporary ſuſpenſion. But this laſt meaſure, which finally ſealed the doom of the parliament, ſtruck a general conſternation and alarm throughout the whole nation.

The provinces that were to be under the juriſdiction of the new tribunals, immediately preſented ſeparate remonſtrances againſt them. Theſe were expreſſed in very ſtrong terms: they recogniſed the declarations made in former reigns, with which this meaſure was incom-

incompatible; and peremptorily aſſerted, that the King's edict, which had occaſioned all this miſchief, was abſolutely ſubverſive of all public and private good, and preſented to the people no other view but that of the moſt enſlaving deſpotiſm.

The conduct of the Princes of the Blood was, however, more diſagreeable and alarming to the court than thoſe remonſtrances. A ſtrong and ſpirited proteſt was ſigned by them, againſt every meaſure that had been taken to the prejudice of the parliament; which was alſo backed by a great number of the Peers. This was delivered to the King, March 13. by M. de Pour, firſt gentleman to the Duke of Orleans; and enraged him ſo much, that a council was called; in which it was debated, whether the princes ſhould not be baniſhed. This violent meaſure, however, met with ſuch oppoſition in the council, that it was dropped.

In the mean time the chancellor, Maupeau, who was conſidered as the founder of all theſe innovations, and was therefore the moſt odious and unpopular man in the kingdom, had framed a new code of laws, which were preſented and approved of, and meaſures accordingly taken for their being carried into execution. During theſe tranſactions, Paris preſented a ſcene of the greateſt confuſion: there was almoſt a total privation of legal juſtice, moſt of the advocates and attorneys having either refuſed or avoided to bring their cauſes before the new tribunal. The remaining courts of magiſtracy were in a continual ſtate of agitation and diſorder, either paſſing fruitleſs reſolutions, preſenting remonſtrances, or entering proteſts equally vain, reſigning their places, and refuſing to act in their reſpective departments, or under the influence of lettres de cachet, which obliged them to reſume their functions. Such was the ſtate of the court of Aids, Chatelet, Great Council, and Chamber of Accounts; while the parliaments in different parts of the kingdom were employed in preſenting remonſtrances, or iſſuing arrets.

A bed of juſtice having been held, April 13. for the final eſtabliſhment of the new tribunals, as well as of the chancellor's code of laws, the Princes of the Blood were ſummoned to attend; upon which they all, except the Count de la Marche, wrote letters to the King, that as they could not give their ſuffrage to the buſineſs that was intended to be done in the bed of juſtice, they did not think proper to aſſiſt at it. This was ſo much reſented, that they all received letters the next day from the King, forbidding them to appear in his preſence, to ſee any of the royal family, or even to reſide at any place where the court ſhould be kept: And the King's indignation was ſo prevalent upon this occaſion, that the Princes were not invited to the wedding which ſoon after took place between the Count de Tholouſe and the Princeſs of Savoy.

A few days after the holding of this bed of juſtice, the parliament of Rouen, with the ſame unſhaken intrepidity which has ſo long diſtinguiſhed its conduct, iſſued an arret, by which the members of the new parliament were declared to be intruders, uſurpers of the effects of other people, enemies of the ſtate, and violators of their oaths, and ſtrictly forbid the acknowledgement or execution of any of their arrets. A counter arret was iſſued, by that which was called the Parliament of the Court at Paris, condemning the firſt to be burnt by the hands of the common hangman.

The court was greatly irritated at the conduct of the parliament of Rouen, and wavered much in its reſolutions what courſe to purſue with it. The danger of entering into meaſures that might too much provoke that great and powerful duchy, was evident to every body; while, from a knowledge of the preſent governing ſpirit, ſuch an iſſue was notwithſtanding expected. It is ſaid, that violent meaſures were intended, and that the Duke de Harcourt nobly refuſed to take the command of the troops in Normandy, for the execution of thoſe purpoſes.

Such meaſures were not obſerved with the reſt of the kingdom: the Duke d'Aguillon, who was, except the Chancellor, the moſt unpopular man in it, and who was deemed the original author of the preſent diſturbances, was appointed miniſter for foreign affairs. At Paris, forty-two counſellors of the Chatelet were ſent at once into baniſhment to different places, and had only twenty-four hours allowed to prepare for their departure. In the courſe of the year, the parliaments of Beſançon, Bourdeaux, Aix, Thouloufe, and Britanny, were totally ſuppreſſed, moſt of the members ſent into baniſhment, and new parliaments created in the room of the old ones.

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Notwithſtanding this ſtate of internal diſturbance and diſſatisfaction, a great reduction was made in the French land-forces, both of horſe and foot; a circumſtance that ſufficiently ſhews the confidence of that government in its own ſtrength, and how little it is apprehenſive of any conſequences that might reſult from the complaints or diſlike of the people. At the ſame time, all theſe circumſtances ſeem a ſufficient pledge of the preſent pacific diſpoſition of France.

The poſſeſſion of Corſica ſeems almoſt as imperfect on the ſide of France, as it was on that of Genoa. A continual depredatory war is carried on between their forces and the mountaineers, attended with the moſt cruel circumſtances on both ſides. Count de Marbeuf having marched this ſummer at the head of ſeverſal battalions to ſcour the country, was attacked with ſuch fury in the defiles of the mountains, that it amounted to little leſs than a general defeat, and was attended with a very conſiderable loſs, both of men and officers. A large detachment under the command of a colonel, was afterwards attacked between Baſtia and Ajaccio, and almoſt totally cut to pieces. Their averſion to the French is ſo great, as to carry them beyond all the bounds of humanity: It is ſaid, that they poiſon the wells, ciſterns, and fountains, in that part of the country which they inhabit; kill their horſes in the fields; infect the hay which they are to eat, and maſſacre the officers when they ſtir out of the garriſons. The French have been obliged to diſcontinue the fortifications and works which they were carrying on in different parts of the iſland, as theſe banditti (as they call them) deſtroy more in one night, than they can erect in a week. In a word, the French have hitherto gained as little advantage by the acquiſition of this iſland, as they did honour in the manner of obtaining it.

To the author of the SCOTS MAGAZINE.

SIR, *December* 1772.

THough yet but a novice in the agreeable ſtudy of nature, and though my opinion is not ſupported by any author I am acquainted with, I would humbly offer a ſolution of the query put in your June Magazine. [296.]

The queſtion is, "Why iron, when put into lukewarm water, will attain a degree of heat not eaſy to be endured by the naked hand?"

From numbers of undoubted experiments, we know, that two bodies placed in contact, or very near each other, if they are poſſeſſed of different degrees of heat, the one that is heated moſt, will communicate the ſurplus of its heat to the other, ſo as to make it in the ſame temperature with itſelf. Though this is a known fact, it is as certain, that iron, or any body equally denſe, will acquire a greater heat than the water about it. —— I would thus endeavour to reconcile this ſeeming paradox. Let us ſuppoſe, that every particle of the water has in it any given quantity of fire, whatever it be: from the firſt poſition it will follow, that every particle of the body immerſed, will acquire a degree of heat equal to that of the water. In applying our hand to feel the heat of the water, ſuppoſe we touch an inch of ſurface, it is only gently warm; but if we touch an inch of the iron, we touch a much greater number of particles of matter, becauſe of its ſuperior denſity; and conſequently more fire, as every particle of both are equally heated, which will make it intolerable. I do not think that the heat will always be in exact proportion to the ſpecific gravity of the body: for ſome bodies will not receive ſuch a quantity of fire as others that are really leſs denſe; as, for inſtance, quickſilver boils at 600 in Farhenheit's thermometer; but iron, though leſs denſe, will bear a much greater heat: but we will however always find, that denſity has a conſiderable influence in the heat of bodies that are near to one another. —— It would be from the ſame reaſon that I would account for ſtones, metals, &c. being colder in cold places, and warmer in warm ones, than cloth, wood, &c. that are leſs denſe; as, when they are below the temperature of our bodies, they will attract a greater quantity of fire from our bodies, than the lighter bodies, which will make them ſeem colder; and, on the other hand, when they are above the degree of heat in our bodies, they will impart a greater degree of heat than theſe lighter ones, which will make them ſeem warmer.

I am, &c. J. H.

To recover parchments obliterated by time. Dip the parchment into a veſſel of cold water, freſh drawn from the well: in about a minute take it out, and preſs it between two papers, to prevent its crumpling up in drying. As ſoon as it is moderately dry, if it be not then legible, repeat the operation two or three times. The ſkin will then reſume its priſtine colour, and will appear all alike.

The

The Minutes of the committee of inquiry into East-India affairs, continued. [606.]

Jovis, 14° *Maii*, 1772.

Col. Munro — to give an account of the tranſactions in Bengal.

A. In April 1764 I was under the King's orders, from his Majeſty's ſecretaries of ſtate and war, to return to Europe with ſuch of his Majeſty's troops as did not chuſe to inliſt in the Company's ſervice. — I was accordingly to have imbarked with the troops the beginning of May on board a Mocoa ſhip, which was to ſail for Europe; but before I imbarked, there were two expreſſes arrived from Bengal, acquainting the Governor and Council at Bombay, that Sujah Dowla and Coſſim Aily Khan had marched into the provinces of Bengal at the head of 60,000 men; that Major Adams, who commanded the army, was dead; that the ſettlement of Calcutta was in the utmoſt conſternation, and the Company's affairs in the utmoſt danger: — they therefore requeſted, that the Governor and Council of Bombay would apply to me to go round immediately to take the command of the army with his Majeſty's troops, and as many as could be ſpared from the Preſidency of Bombay. As his Majeſty's intention in ſending out his troops to India, by the orders I had, was to aſſiſt and defend the Company in their different ſettlements, I thought it would not be anſwering the intention of ſending them out, to return and leave the Company's affairs in that ſituation: — I therefore complied with the requeſt, and arrived at Calcutta with his Majeſty's troops, and a detachment of the Company's from Bombay, ſome time in the month of May 1764. — Mr Vanſittart, who was then Governor, acquainted me, that the army under the command of Major Carnac, had been, ſince the death of Major Adams, and Sujah Dowla and his army had come into the provinces, upon the defenſive, and retreated before the enemy: — But I am ſure, from Major Carnac's gallant behaviour upon every occaſion, that he will be able to give a proper account for his conduct in that campaign.

Mr Vanſittart requeſted, that I would repair immediately with the troops I had carried round from Bombay, to join the army, who were in cantonment at Patna, and take the command of them. — I found the army, Europeans as well as Seapoys, mutinous, deſerting to the enemy; — threatening to carry off their officers, demanding an augmentation of pay; demanding large ſums of money, which they ſaid had been promiſed them by the Nabob, and diſobedient to all order; — 400 of the Europeans had gone off in a body, and joined the enemy ſome time before I joined the army. — This being the ſituation the army was in, I fully determined to endeavour to conquer that mutinous diſpoſition in them before I would attempt to conquer the enemy. — I accordingly went with a detachment of the King's and Company's Europeans from Patna, with four field-pieces of artillery, to Chippera, one of the cantonments. — I think the very day, or the day after, I arrived, a whole battalion of ſeapoys, with their arms and accoutrements, went off to join the enemy. — I immediately detached about 100 Europeans, and a battalion of ſeapoys, whoſe officers told me they thought they could depend upon them not to deſert, with two field-pieces, to endeavour to come up with the deſerters, and bring them back to me. — The detachment came up with them in the night-time, found them aſleep, took them priſoners, and carried them back to Chippera. The officer who commanded the detachment, ſent me an expreſs, acquainting me with the hour he would arrive at Chippera with the priſoners. — I was ready to receive them with the troops under arms. — Upon their arrival at Chippera, I immediately ordered their officers to pick me out fifty of the men of the worſt characters, and who they thought might have enticed the battalion to deſert to the enemy. — They did pick me out fifty. — I deſired them to pick me out twenty-four of thoſe fifty of the worſt characters. — I immediately ordered a field court-martial to be held by their own Black officers; and after repreſenting to the officers the heinous crime the battalion had been guilty of, deſired they would immediately bring me their ſentence. — They found them guilty of mutiny and deſertion, ſentenced them to ſuffer death, and left the manner to me. — I immediately ordered four of the twenty-four to be tied to the guns, and the artillery-officers to prepare to blow them away. — There was a remarkable circumſtance: Four grenadiers repreſented, as they always had the poſt of honour, they thought they were intitled to be firſt blown away. — The four battalion-

talion-men were untied from the guns, and the four grenadiers tied, and blown away; upon which the European officers of the battalion of ſeapoys, who were then in the field, came and told me, that the ſeapoys would not ſuffer any more of the men to be blown away. — I ordered the artillery-officers to load the four field-pieces with grape-ſhot, and drew up the Europeans, with the guns in their intervals, deſired the officers to return to the heads of the battalions, ordered them immediately to ground their arms, and if one of them attempted to move, I would give orders to fire upon them, and treat them the ſame as if they were Sujah Dowla's army. — They did ground their arms, and did not attempt to take them up again. — Upon which I ordered ſixteen more of the twenty-four to be tied to the guns by force, and blown away the ſame as the firſt; which was done. — I immediately ordered the other four to be carried to a cantonment where there had been a deſertion of the ſeapoys ſome time before, with poſitive orders to the commanding officer of that cantonment, to blow them away in the ſame manner at the guns; which was done accordingly; and which put an end to the mutiny and deſertion.

I prepared to take the field as early as poſſible after the rains with the army, and fixed the 15th of September for the rendezvous of the troops from their different cantonments. — A couple of days before the army marched, I had intelligence, that the enemy had advanced ſeveral parties of horſe, and had thrown up ſome breaſt-works on the banks of the Soane, to impede the croſſing of the troops. — I ordered Major Champion, with a detachment and four field-pieces, to march, and croſs the Soane ſome miles below where the army was to croſs. After fixing with him the hour and the day that I intended to arrive at the Soane with the army, I deſired that he might be at that time on the other ſide, and endeavour to diſlodge the enemy, and cover the landing of the troops. — That officer was ſo pointed in executing his orders, he began to fire upon the enemy juſt as the van of the army appeared upon the banks of the Soane, and ſoon diſlodged them; by which means the whole army in four hours was landed on the other ſide without the leaſt moleſtation. — I continued to march on towards Buxar, where the enemy was. — The laſt two or three days march the line of march was a good deal haraſſed by the enemy's cavalry; ſo much, that two ſerjeants and ſix or ſeven men of the advanced guard were killed. — Upon the 22d of October we arrived at Buxar, and incamped juſt without range of the enemy's ſhot; and upon my going to reconnoitre their ſituation with ſome of the field-officers, I found the greateſt part of them were intrenched, with the Ganges upon their left, and the fort or village of Buxar on their rear. — I intended to have attacked their camp about one or two in the morning of the 23d; and ſent out ſpies to bring me ſome pieces of intelligence, ſuch as to know whether I could bring my artillery on the right of their camp, reſolving not to attack them on their left, that we might have a better chance to drive them into the Ganges than they ſhould us. — I likewiſe wanted to know in what part of their incampment the force of their artillery lay, and where the Vizier and Coſſim Ally Khan's tent ſtood. — The ſpies did not return to camp by twelve o'clock at night. — I took it for granted they had been taken priſoners, and therefore reſolved to put off the attack till the 24th in the morning.

Two of the ſpies came in by day-light of the morning of the 23d, and told me, that the enemy were under arms all night, moving their artillery, and ſending off their treaſure and women in the night. — I went immediately with ſome officers to look at their diſpoſition: I ſaw a good many of their troops under arms, but not out of their intrenchments. — The officers who were with me, as well as myſelf, thought they only meant to ſhew themſelves, in order to ſtrike a terror into our troops, never imagining they would quit their line in order to attack us, as I never heard of a Black army before attacking an European army — I returned to our camp, wiſhing they would come out to attack us: for our army was incamped in order of battle. — About eight o'clock in the morning the field-officer of the day came into my tent, as I was at breakfaſt, and acquainted me, that the enemy's right was in motion, and he was ſure they meant to attack us. — I immediately went out with my reconnoitring glaſs in my hand, and ſaw and thought as he did: — upon which I ordered the drums to beat immediately to arms; which was done; and the troops advanced from their incampment, and were in a few minutes ready

o receive them. — The action lasted from nine till twelve: the enemy then gave way, went off very slowly, blowing up several tumbrels, and three large magazines of powder, as they went off. — I immediately ordered the lines to break into columns and pursue. Two miles from the field of battle there was a rivulet, where the enemy had a bridge of boats; they pierced the boats, and sunk them before the rear of their army got over, by which means there were about 2000 of them drowned, and sticking in the mud: but that was the best piece of generalship Sujah Dowla shewed that day; because, if I could have crossed the rivulet with the army, I would either have taken or drowned his whole army in the Carnassa, and come up with his treasure and jewels, and Cossim Ally Khan's jewels, which I was informed amounted to between two and three millions.

The strength of our army at this battle was as follows: —— Europeans in battalion rank and file 746, of which 250 were King's troops, — artillery-men 71, — European cavalry 40, — in all Europeans 857, exclusive of officers. —— Seapoys rank and file 5297, — Black cavalry 918; in all 7072. —— Train of artillery twenty field-pieces. —— European officers killed 2; wounded 7. — Europeans killed 34; wounded 49. — Non-commissioned officers killed 3; wounded 6. — Europeans killed and wounded 101. — Seapoys killed 205; wounded 414; missing 85. — Black cavalry killed 45; wounded 24; — killed and wounded 847. — Artillery taken in the field 133 pieces of different sizes, all upon carriages, and most of them English carriages. —— The enemy was reported to be 60,000, but I am sure they were not less than 40,000: I am likewise sure, that there must have been 2000 of them killed in the field of battle, exclusive of those drowned; and, as I had not surgeons sufficient to dress our own wounded, and give theirs any assistance, I went every day for five days successively to every man of their wounded in the field, and gave rice and water to such as would take it; such was all the assistance I could give them.

The army remained at Buxar for several days, until hospitals were provided for the wounded, and to bury the dead.

I then marched the army into Sujah Dowla's country, and sent an express to Calcutta for further directions from the Governor and Council. — The Mogul (Shaw Alium) wrote me a letter the day after the battle, giving me joy of the victory over the Vizier, who had kept him as a state-prisoner, and desiring I would take him under my protection; and acquainting me, that though he was with the Vizier in camp, he had left him the night before the battle. My answer to his letter was, as nearly as I can remember, "That I would immediately send an express to Mr Vansittart, the Governor of Calcutta, but that I would not take him under protection until I knew how far such a step might be proper, and for the interest of the Company. — He sent to me and wrote to me repeatedly, before I had an answer from Calcutta, desiring me to come to him, for he had something very particular to communicate to me. I at last sent him word, that I would wait upon him, provided he would not look upon himself as under the English protection: to which he consented. When I waited upon him, he told me, that if the English took him under protection, he would give them Sujah Dowla's country, that, or any thing else they were pleased to demand; and repeated many grievances and hardships that Sujah Dowla laid him under, and said he was only his state-prisoner. I continued to march the army on towards Banaras, and the Mogul continued to march with his guards, and incamped every night pretty close to our incampment. Before the army arrived at Banaras I had an answer from the Governor and Council, who consented that the King should be taken under protection. Upon the army's arriving at Banaras, Sujah Dowla sent me his minister Beney Bahadra with overtures of peace; which I refused, because I insisted upon it in the first instance, that he would deliver me up Cossim Ally Khan and Sumro: the former had ordered so many of the subjects of Great Britain to be massacred, and the latter undertook to put the horrid crime into execution, when no man in the Nabob's army would undertake it but himself [xxvi. 343.]. — Sumro was a German, and a general officer, and had been before a serjeant in the French service, deserted from them to us, and from us to Cossim Ally Khan: — he commanded Sujah Dowla's artillery at the battle of Buxar, and had 3 or 400 French deserters from our army, under his command. — Beney Bahadra told me, Sujah Dowla ne-

ver could think of giving up Coffim Ally Khan or Sumro; but if I paſſed from that demand, I might have any other terms I pleaſed. — He ſaid, Sujah Dowla would give 25 lack of rupees to defray the expences the Company had been at in the war, 25 lack to the army, and 8 lack for myſelf. — This he told me in the preſence of Capt. Stables and Gordon, who were my aids-de-camp, and both now in England, Mr Stewart, my Secretary, and my interpreter. — My anſwer was, if he gave me all the lacks in his treaſury, I would make no peace with him until he delivered me up thoſe murdering raſcals; for I never could think, that my receiving 11 or 12 lack of rupees was a ſufficient atonement for the blood of thoſe unfortunate gentlemen who were murdered at Patna, nor a ſufficient atonement to the weeping parents, friends, and relations, of thoſe unfortunate gentlemen. — Theſe were my words — Upon this Beney Bahadra and I parted. — He returned a ſecond time, with aſſurances from Sujah Dowla, that if I made peace with him, he would put me upon a method of laying hold both of Coſſim and Sumro, and made uſe of all the perſuaſive arguments he could to induce me to make peace. — I ſtill inſiſted upon my firſt preliminary. Beney Bahadra deſired, if that was the caſe, that I would permit Capt. Stables, who ſpoke the country-language, to return with him to the Nabob's camp; that the Nabob wanted to ſpeak with Capt. Stables. — I told Capt. Stables, that as I was fully determined not to depart from his giving up Coſſim Ally Khan, and Sumro in particular, I did not with or adviſe him to go, for that they might uſe him the ſame way as the other unfortunate gentlemen. — Capt. Stables replied, that he would with pleaſure riſk his own life, could he be the inſtrument of bringing theſe two to be made public examples of. — He accordingly went with Beney Bahadra to the Nabob's camp; and when he returned, he told me, that ſince he found that I was determined to have Coſſim and Sumro, that in regard to Coſſim, he would not by any manner of means deliver him up, but let him eſcape; — but as to Sumro, if I ſent two or three gentlemen from the Engliſh camp, who knew Sumro, he would aſk Sumro to an entertainment, and, in preſence of thoſe gentlemen, he would order him to be put to death. — He offered Capt. Stables a ſum of money to endeavour to prevail upon me to agree to his terms; but as I never would, the next thing to be conſidered was, the manner of driving Sujah Dowla entirely out of his country, (who was then at Lucknow with the remains of his army), and of the manner of ſettling his country. — I wrote to Calcutta to the Governor and Council, ſent them a letter the King wrote to me much about this time, propoſing that he ſhould have ſo much of Sujah Dowla's country, and cede the reſt to the Company, and requeſting me that I would make no peace with Sujah Dowla. — I ſent this letter to Calcutta, deſiring to have the directions of the Governor and Council with regard to this matter, and acquainting them likewiſe that I was determined to leave the army ſo as to return to Calcutta, to imbark with the laſt ſhip that ſhould ſail that ſeaſon with his Majeſty's troops. — The Governor and Council ſent a copy of a treaty to be executed by the King, and Mr Marriot, Mr Billers, who was Chief of Patna, and Mr Daker, to be preſent at the executing of this treaty. — The treaty with the King was executed.

As ſo much time had been taken up by theſe tranſactions, and the time drawing near for my quitting the command, Major Carnac was ordered by the Governor and Council to repair immediately to take the command. — I left the army the 6th of January 1765, and met Major Carnac upon his way to take the command. I told him what my plan of operations would be, had I remained in the command, and which was as follows. — As I hold it a rule never to be departed from in that country, not to come to a general action with the enemy, except where every thing is at ſtake, I determined, as we were in poſſeſſion of (I believe) the greateſt part of Sujah Dowla's country, to have remained ſome time longer in camp, as his army muſt of courſe diſperſe when his money was out; and if I found that would take up too much time, I would march the army towards Lucknow, and if he came to action, to have then riſked a battle with him, and taken poſſeſſion of Lucknow and Illahabad, which was his whole country with what he had in poſſeſſion. — I told this to Major Carnac, who ſaid he would follow the ſame plan.

The Company's Governor and Council, and all the ſervants at the ſettlement of Calcutta, or elſewhere, were under no appre-

apprehenſions from what Sujah Dowla or Coſſim Ally Khan could do after the battle of Buxar, as will appear from ſeveral letters wrote me from the Preſidency, and by their letters home, after the battle of Buxar.—The Company's inveſtments for Europe were carried on this year in the ſame manner as uſual: they had no enemy nearer the ſettlement of Calcutta than 800 miles, and that enemy at the head of the remains of a conquered army; that was the ſituation I left the country in; and before I imbarked for Europe, and before General Carnac joined the army, Sir Robert Fletcher marched the army, took poſſeſſion of Illahabad and Lucknow, and Sujah Dowla's army, as I underſtood, totally diſperſed.

Q. If at the time you found the army in that mutinous diſpoſition, they were regularly paid?—*A.* They were.

Q. Whether you know of any promiſe that had been made them of an increaſe of pay, or of any promiſe of a preſent made from the Nabob?—*A.* I am ſure there was no promiſe of increaſe of pay; nor do I know of any promiſe of a preſent; but I heard that Major Adams told them, they ſhould have a preſent from the Nabob, if they drove the enemy's troops out of the country.

Q. What do you apprehend was the cauſe of this mutinous diſpoſition?—*A.* From the different actions the troops were in with Coſſim Ally Khan, and their being able to drive him from poſt to poſt, under that gallant officer Major Adams, they thought themſelves intitled to benefit by that ſucceſs; and I ſuppoſe, owing to the troops being in the field, there muſt have been a relaxation of diſcipline. Theſe are the motives that I ſuppoſe induced them to mutiny; and probably there might have been large promiſes from the enemy if they would join them.

Q. Of what nation were thoſe Europeans that mutinied, and deſerted to the enemy?—*A.* Moſtly French;—and I believe ſome Germans.—I don't know whether there were any Engliſh.

Q. Whether thoſe Europeans were mixed with the Engliſh companies, or whether they were in a corps by themſelves?—*A.* They were mixed with the Engliſh companies—did not get back any of thoſe deſerters except one.

Q. Where do the Indian princes get their artillery and gunpowder?—*A.* Their artillery they get from England, Holland, and France; for while I was in India, there was hardly a ſhip came there that did not ſell them cannon and ſmall arms.—The gunpowder they make the moſt of it themſelves.—They caſt ſome cannon;—but there is no Black prince that caſts cannon but the King of Travelcore.—Shot they caſt in abundance.

Q. What number of ſeapoys can be got in the Eaſt Indies?—*A.* I believe any number you pleaſe.—The cannon and military ſtores are ſmuggled into the country, and I believe the Company have made ſome examples.—I always thought it a very great ſcandal that ſuch things ſhould be ſuffered.—I think ſuch a practice might be eaſily prevented as to the Engliſh ſmuggling.

Q. What do you apprehend would be the means of making the Seapoys faithful and good ſoldiers?—*A.* One method is a ſtrict diſcipline;—another is, leaving them to act with the Europeans;—another, ſuffering them their own cuſtoms and manners with regard to religion, when it does not interfere with their duty;—to be well paid, and have good cloathing, and increaſing the number of European officers;—good care when they are ſick, and uſing them well in every reſpect while they behave well.

Q. What is your opinion of preſerving our conqueſts in India?—*A.* In the firſt place always to keep a proper force of Europeans in that country; never ſuffering the Company's ſervants to make war againſt the country-powers, until it is evident that they are the firſt aggreſſors; and making proper laws in the country ſo as that the executive power may be properly executed.

Q. What force of Europeans ſhould be kept in that country,—and Bengal particularly?—*A.* I think never leſs than an eſtabliſhment of 3000 men,—and I ſhould rather think, if they could be ſpared from this country, they ought to be 4000.—Not that I don't think 3000 men are ſufficient to defend that country againſt all the country-powers who may make war againſt the Engliſh; but my reaſon for ſaying that another thouſand beſides the 3000 might be neceſſary, would be, to counterbalance the Black troops, who muſt be neceſſarily employed in that country, and who are capable of being taught diſcipline almoſt equal to the Europeans.

Q. What number of Seapoys is a proper

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per and safe proportion for 3000 Europeans? — *A.* About four parts in five, or more.

Q. What do you think might be the supply of recruits necessary to maintain an establishment of 3000 men in that country? — *A.* About 500 men yearly in time of peace.

Q. What is your opinion of the expediency of employing foreigners in that country, and particularly Germans and Swiss? — *A.* That any foreigners whatsoever never ought to be employed by the English in that country. — I have already given an example, that when an enemy was in the field, they deserted to them; and that they are of a quite different religion, if they are of any at all; — I therefore think they would upon every occasion desert from us to those of the same religion as themselves; — and it has always been found they do so. — Another reason is, that as we have but just the number that is absolutely necessary in that country, I don't think they can be depended upon in time of action.

Q. Do you know whether there have been any corps of Swiss or Germans, Protestants, in India, under their own officers? — *A.* I don't know of any such corps.

Q. What is your opinion if they had corps of Swiss? — *A.* I am against corps of foreigners of Swiss or Germans; — but as to have some mixed, I have no objection to it; — it might do very well.

Q. What is your opinion of employing, as private men, the Catholics from Ireland? — *A.* I think they might be very well and safely employed; — I am always for having the greatest number of troops from this country.

Q. Whether European cavalry would be necessary? — *A.* Certainly of very great use.

Q. What number would you recommend out of these 3000 to be European cavalry? — *A.* At least one third.

Q. What portion of the Black troops ought to be cavalry? — *A.* If it was meant to have European cavalry, I would have no establishment of Black cavalry at all; being of no use in time of peace; and in time of war, only of use to keep the line quiet on the march.

Q. Whether it has not been the custom for time immemorial, for captains of English ships to sell arms and military stores to the natives of India? — *A.* The time I was in India it was a custom; — and I have heard it was always the custom.

Q. Whether the French, Dutch, and Danes, and all other nations, do not likewise sell military stores? — *A.* I always heard that they did.

Q. Whether you think there is a possibility of preventing other nations from doing so? — *A.* No.

Q. Whether it might not be a dangerous experiment to train the troops so as to make them equal to Europeans? — *A.* It may be a dangerous one; — but it will still be a more dangerous one not to do it.

Q. Whether you know or have heard of any other great desertion, except what you have mentioned? — *A.* Not from my own experience, but have heard the officers say, that foreigners always would desert. — About a fifth or sixth part of the private men might be foreigners, to be mixed with the other troops.

Q. Was you offered a jaghire by the King? — *A.* The King gave me a jaghire, — I was in possession of it, — of 12,500*l.* a-year for life, upon some of the provinces in Bengal, for my services to him and the country. — Upon my receipt of it I wrote immediately to Mr Spencer, who was Governor of Calcutta, acquainting him of the King's having given me a jaghire. — I received his answer after I had quitted the command of the army. — Mr Spencer acquainted me, that my receiving such a jaghire was so much contrary to the interest of the Company, that they never would suffer me to hold it; that I might remember the Company's having gone to law with Lord Clive about his jaghire; and requested that I would deliver it up to the Nabob, when I saw him; who would not only behave handsomely upon the occasion, but that the Company would never see me the sufferer from such an act, after the services I had done them. — From that moment I resolved to deliver it up to the Nabob, when I saw him; and, upon my arrival at Muxadabad, I waited on the Nabob at his palace, who was then ill. I told him, that I had got a jaghire from the King; but as I was about to leave the country, I would leave it with him. — This was in the presence of Mr Middleton, resident at the Durbar; Capt[s] Gordon and Stables. — The Nabob, upon receiving the jaghire, smiled, and said, This is a piece of generosity I am little accustomed to; but if I live,

live, you shall not be the sufferer;—and desired his minister Nuncomer to desire the interpreter to acquaint me, that he begged my acceptance of two lack of rupees, which would be at Calcutta much about the time that I should arrive there. —A few days after my arrival at Calcutta, I received a letter from the Nabob's son, acquainting me with his father's death, requesting my interest for him to succeed his father as Subah, and acquainting me, that he knew the whole transaction of the jaghire, and the promises his father made me, and assuring me, that he would make them good; and in this situation I left my jaghire and my lacks.—I had a letter from Mr Spencer since I came to England, acquainting me, that he had acquainted my Lord Clive of the demands I had upon the government; that his Lordship promised him, if there was so much remaining of the Nabob's outstanding debts, he would order the payment of the two lack of rupees to my attorney.—I am very happy, from his Lordship's eminent services to this country and the Company, that he has a more responsible fund for the payment of his jaghire; at the same time I cannot help regretting, that his Lordship did not think my two years rent deserved a better fund than the Nabob's outstanding debts.—Let my small services be rewarded as they may; let individuals think of themselves as they please; I hope facts will come out before this Committee is at an end, to shew them and the world, that this country has been served, that this East-India Company has been saved, by more than one or two men. Many brave and gallant men have done honour to their King, have done service to this country, and have served the East-India Company, and some of them have lost their lives in the cause.—I have never received any part of the two lack, nor any present from the East-India Company.

Q. Whether, at the time the Mogul granted the jaghire, the Nabob paid any revenues or acknowledgements to the Mogul? —— *A.* He did not; nor did he pay any of the royal revenues from Bengal; which were stipulated to have been paid to the Mogul either by the Nabob or the Company, I don't know which.

Q. Whether this is not the first time that you have mentioned the circumstance of Mr Spencer's letter? —— *A.* It is the first time, and probably will be the last time; and I would not have mentioned it now if it had not happened to have come in, as I thought, properly, in answer to a question that was asked me; and because, when Lord Clive was upon the spot, from his not having ordered the payment of it, I thought his Lordship did not think I deserved it, and I gave him no trouble about it;—and I knew it was not in my Lord Clive's power to do it when he came home.

Q. Whether you think it would have been proper for Lord Clive to have ordered the Nabob to pay that money? —— *A.* Had I been in his Lordship's situation, and he in mine, I certainly would have ordered the Nabob to have paid it.

Q. Did you ever hear that Lord Clive ordered the Nabob to pay such a thing to any man living? —— *A.* No.

Q. Did you hear of any money that was offered to Mr Spencer, if he would continue Nundcomar about the person of the Nabob? —— *A.* When I came down to Calcutta, Mr Spencer told me, that he was offered several lack of rupees (about nine, ten, or eleven lack, I can't say exactly) to support Nundcomar;—which he refused.

Q. Whether you know of any order sent by the Directors abroad, to put the two lack promised you by the Nabob in a course of payment? —— *A.* To the best of my remembrance I had never any public intimation from the Court of Directors that they sent out orders to that purpose; but some of the Directors told me privately, that the Nabob was to be put under stoppage of so much yearly for the payment of the donation to the navy, the restitution of the two lack which he promised to pay me;—and that is all I know of the matter.

Q. Did you make any application to the Mogul for your jaghire? —— *A.* No;—nor any person for me.

Sir George Colebroke (chairman of the East-India Company) informed the Committee, That orders went out last March or April twelvemonth, to reduce the income of the Nabob to sixteen lack of rupees during his minority, and to apply the surplus of his revenue to the payment of the retribution, and to Col. Munro two lack of rupees.

Q. Do you believe that money will be paid? —— *A.* I have no doubt of it.

Colonel Munro.

Q. Had you an offer of the Dewannee for the Company? —— *A.* Yes.—The King,

King, when I firſt ſaw him, offered me the Dewannee: — he told me he had offered it before. — I believe he offered it to Sir Eyre Coote, after the Mogul's father's death: — he offered it before that to Major Carnac, as I am informed; and Mr Vanſittart, before I joined the army, aſſured me, that he could have had the Dewannee, but did not know how far he could be juſtified in ſuch an act, or how far it might tend to the intereſt of the Company. — My reaſons for not accepting the offer were, that I formed no plans of any kind but that of extricating the Company from the danger that threatened them. — The Governor and Council were, or ought to be, the judges of what was or what was not for the intereſt of the Company. — I was, or ought to be, the proper judge what was for the honour of his Majeſty's troops to be concerned in; and as Meer Jaffier had been but juſt placed upon the Muſnud for the ſecond time, and that the Company's affairs did not require depoſing him, nor his own conduct deſerve it at that time, I thought it would be neither for the credit of their troops, or the honour of the commanding officer, to adopt ſuch a meaſure. — So much was this my opinion, and ſo well did I know Mr Vanſittart's ſentiments upon that ſubject before I joined the army, that I do not remember I ever ſaid any thing to him about it. Theſe were my reaſons for not accepting the King's offer.

Q. Whether the Mogul could have effectually granted the Dewannee to the Company without the Nabob's conſent? — *A.* I think the Mogul could and would have done any thing at that time that I deſired him, without the conſent of the Nabob; — and the Company would have reaped any benefit from that grant of the King's that they pleaſed; becauſe ever ſince Coſſim Ally Khan had been drove out of the country, the Company themſelves have been the Nabob; — there has been only a nominal Nabob.

Q. After the battle of Buxar did you receive any letter from the Governor and Council, acknowledging the merit of your ſervices upon that occaſion? — *A.* I have received ſeveral: — I imagined that one I received immediately after the battle, was before the Committee.

Q. Did you receive any letter from the Court of Directors here? — *A.* No; I did not: but the chairman and deputy-chairman came to me at my return, to make ſuch acknowledgement.

Q. Did you make any application to the Directors at your return, upon the ſubject of the jaghire and two lack? — *A.* Yes.

Q. What anſwer had you? — *A.* I had no public anſwer.

Letter to Col. Munro, Nov. 6. 1764, read.

Q. Whether, for giving up your jaghire of 12,500 l. a-year, and for the ſervices performed to the Company, you have ever received from the Company any reward whatſoever? — *A.* None of any kind whatever.

Q. Whether you did not underſtand from Mr Spencer, (the Preſident at Calcutta), that you ſhould have amends made you by the Company for giving up the jaghire? — *A.* I do confeſs that I did; and I alſo ſay, that could I have conceived that the Company would have ſerved me ſo ungratefully in many reſpects ſince my arrival from India, I never would have given up my jaghire.

Q. Whether, after the battle of Buxar, you received any private donations from any of the Eaſtern princes? — *A.* Upon the army incamping at Banaras, the officer who commanded the detachment in the town, wrote me a card, acquainting me, that a Rajah had ſomething very particular to communicate to me, and if I granted his requeſt, he would give me four lack of rupees, and a handſome preſent to the officer. — The requeſt he made me was, to diſpoſſeſs Rajah Bulwantſing, who was Zemindar, from the collection of the country. — I told him, I would not. I was deſired to make no alteration of any kind. — About the time I was quitting the army, Bulwantſing hearing I had rejected this offer, came to me, and told me, that he was ſenſible of my favour to him, and begged my acceptance of 80,000 rupees, which is 10,000 l.; — and except that, from the day I commanded the army, (which was near five years), further than the common cuſtomary compliments, which are of ſmall amount, and which I made in my return to others, I ſolemnly declare I never received a ſingle rupee by way of preſent, either in money or jewels. — While I had the command of that army, I refuſed the offers of above 300,000 l. at different times, for making alterations in the officers of the government. — I recollect, that at my leaving the country, the Nabob ſent 3000 l. for me, and 3000 l. among the officers of my

my family, which are the uſual preſents to the commanding officer.

Q. How long was you in Bengal?—— *A.* From May 1764, to the end of February or beginning of March 1765.

Q. When did the ſpirit of mutiny firſt ſhew itſelf in the army?—— *A.* Before I came to the command.

Q. Did you levy any contributions at Banaras or elſewhere?—— *A.* I never did lay the country under any contributions of any kind. The merchants of Banaras gave four lacks of rupees to the army for protection to themſelves and their effects.—I immediately acquainted the Governor and Council with it, to have their ſanction for the army to receive it, which is upon the Company's records; and they gave their conſent.

Q. Was that the only place where any contribution was given?—— *A.* The only one in my time.

Q. What proportion had you of the four lacks as commander in chief?—— *A.* An eighth part.

Mr Strachey.

Q. Whether you ever heard Lord Clive ſay, that Mr Spencer had applied to his Lordſhip to apply to the Nabob for payment of the two lacks of rupees promiſed to Col. Munro?—— *A.* I never did;—and I think, that had Mr Spencer mentioned that circumſtance to Lord Clive, it was moſt probable that his Lordſhip would have mentioned it to me, who was his ſecretary, and conſtantly with him.

General Carnac.

Q. Whether you ever heard Lord Clive ſay, that Mr Spencer had applied to his Lordſhip to apply to the Nabob for payment of the two lacks of rupees promiſed to Col. Munro?—— *A.* I never did;—and I had not a doubt till this day but that the Nabob had made Col. Munro ſuch an acknowledgement as his ſervices deſerved.

Colonel Munro.

Q. Is not Banaras one of the richeſt cities in India?—— *A.* Yes.

Q. What is the rate of intereſt at Banaras?—— *A.* I can't tell, but think it lower there than any where elſe.

Q. How long was you in quelling the mutiny, and reſtoring the army to a proper diſcipline?—— *A.* From the beginning of June to ſome time in July, when I made the example I have before mentioned.

Adjourned till to-morrow.

SIR, *Dover, Dec.* 9. 1772.

MAny excellent things have been lately publiſhed concerning the preſent ſcarcity of proviſions; and many cauſes have been aſſigned for it. But is not ſomething wanting in moſt of thoſe publications? One writer aſſigns one cauſe; another one or two more, and ſtrongly inſiſts upon them: but who has aſſigned all the cauſes that manifeſtly concur to produce this melancholy effect, at the ſame time pointing out how each particular cauſe affects the price of each particular ſort of proviſion?

I would willingly offer, to candid and benevolent men, a few hints on this important ſubject; propoſing a few queſtions, and adding to each what ſeems to be the plain and direct anſwers.

I. 1. I aſk, firſt, Why are thouſands of people ſtarving, periſhing for want, in every part of England? The fact I know: I have ſeen it with my eyes, in every corner of the land. I have known thoſe who could only afford to eat a little coarſe food every other day. I have known one picking up ſtinking ſprats from a dunghill, and carrying them home for herſelf and her children. I have known another gathering the bones which the dogs had left in the ſtreets, and making broth of them to prolong a wretched life! Such is the caſe at this day, of multitudes of people, in a land flowing as it were with milk and honey! abounding with all the neceſſaries, the conveniencies, the ſuperfluities of life!

Now why is this? Why have all theſe nothing to eat? Becauſe they have nothing to do. They have no meat, becauſe they have no work.

2. But why have they no work? Why are ſo many thouſand people in London, in Briſtol, in Norwich, in every county from one end of England to the other, utterly deſtitute of employment?

Becauſe the perſons who uſed to employ them cannot afford to do it any longer. Many who employed fifty men, now ſcarce employ ten; thoſe who employed twenty, now employ one or none at all. They cannot, as they have no vent for their goods; food now bearing ſo high a price, that the generality of people are hardly able to buy any thing elſe.

3. But, to deſcend from generals to particulars, why is bread corn ſo dear?

Becauſe ſuch immenſe quantities of it are continually conſumed by diſtilling.

Indeed an eminent diſtiller near London, hearing this, warmly replied, "Nay, my partner and I generally diſtil but a thouſand quarters of corn a-week." Perhaps ſo; ſuppoſe five and twenty diſtillers, in and near the town, conſume each only the ſame quantity: here are five and twenty thouſand quarters a-week, that is above twelve hundred and fifty thouſand quarters a-year, conſumed in and about London! Add the diſtilleries throughout England; and have we not reaſon to believe, that half of the wheat produced in the kingdom, is every year conſumed, not by ſo harmleſs a way as throwing it into the ſea, but by converting it into deadly poiſon; poiſon that naturally deſtroys, not only the ſtrength, health, and life, but alſo the morals of our countrymen!

"Well, but this brings in a large revenue to the King." Is this an equivalent for the lives of his ſubjects? Would his Majeſty ſell an hundred thouſand of his ſubjects yearly to Algiers, for four hundred thouſand pounds? Surely no. Will he then ſell them for that ſum, to be butchered by their own countrymen? "But otherwiſe the ſwine for the navy cannot be fed." Not unleſs they are fed with human fleſh! Not unleſs they are fatted with human blood! O tell it not in Conſtantinople! that the Engliſh raiſe the royal revenue by ſelling the fleſh and blood of their countrymen.

4. But why are oats ſo dear?

Becauſe there are four times the horſes kept (to ſpeak within compaſs) for coaches and chaiſes in particular, that were ſome years ago. Unleſs therefore four times the oats grow now which grew then, they cannot be at the ſame price. If only twice as much is now produced (which perhaps is near the truth) the price will naturally be double to what it was.

As the dearneſs of grain of one kind will naturally raiſe the price of another, ſo whatever cauſes the dearneſs of wheat and oats, muſt raiſe the price of barley too. To account therefore for the dearneſs of this, we need only remember what has been obſerved above; although ſome particular cauſes may concur in producing the ſame effect.

5. Why are beef and mutton ſo dear?

Becauſe moſt of the conſiderable farmers, particularly in the northern counties, who uſed to breed large numbers of ſheep or horned cattle, and frequently both, no longer trouble themſelves with either ſheep, or cows, or oxen, as they can turn their land to far better account by breeding horſes alone. Such is the demand, not only for coach and chaiſe horſes, which are bought and deſtroyed in incredible numbers; but much more for bred horſes, which are yearly exported by hundreds, yea thouſands, to France.

6. But why are pork, poultry, and eggs ſo dear?

Becauſe of the monopolizing of farms, as miſchievous a monopoly as was ever yet introduced into theſe kingdoms. The land which was formerly divided among ten or twenty little farmers, and enabled them comfortably to provide for their families, is now generally ingroſſed by one great farmer. One man farms an eſtate of a thouſand a-year, which formerly maintained ten or twenty. Every one of thoſe little farmers kept a few ſwine, with ſome quantity of poultry; and having little money, was glad to ſend his bacon, or pork, or fowls and eggs, to market continually. Hence the markets were plentifully ſerved; and plenty created cheapneſs. But at preſent, the great, the gentlemen-farmers, are above attending to thoſe little things. They breed no poultry or ſwine, unleſs for their own uſe; conſequently they ſend none to market. Hence it is not ſtrange, if two or three of theſe living near a market-town, occaſion ſuch a ſcarcity of theſe things, by preventing the former ſupply, that the price of them will be double or treble to what it was before. Hence (to inſtance in a ſmall article) in the ſame town, where, within my memory, eggs were ſold eight or ten a penny, they are now ſold ſix or eight a groat.

Another cauſe why both beef, mutton, pork, and all kinds of victuals, are ſo dear, is luxury. What can ſtand againſt this? Will it not waſte and deſtroy all that nature and art can produce? If a perſon of quality will boil down three dozen of neats tongues, to make two or three quarts of ſoup, and ſo proportionably in other things, what wonder if proviſions fail? Only look into the kitchens of the great, the nobility and gentry almoſt without exception, (conſidering withal that "the toe of the peaſant treads on the heel of the courtier"), and when you have obſerved the amazing waſte which is made there, you will no longer wonder at the ſcarcity, and conſequently dear-

neſs

neſs of the things which they uſe ſo much art to deſtroy.

7. But why is land ſo dear?

Becauſe on all theſe accounts, gentlemen cannot live as they have been accuſtomed to do, without increaſing their income: which moſt of them cannot do, but by raiſing their rents. And the farmer paying a higher rent for his land, muſt have an higher price for the produce of it. This again tends to raiſe the price of land; and ſo the wheel goes round.

8. But why is it, that not only proviſions and land, but well nigh every thing elſe is ſo dear?

Becauſe of the enormous taxes which are laid on almoſt every thing that can be named. Not only abundant taxes are raiſed, from earth, fire, and water, but in England the ingenious ſtateſmen have found a way to tax the very light! Only one element remains: and ſurely ſome man of honour will ere long contrive to tax this alſo; for how long ſhall the ſaucy air blow in the face of a gentleman, nay a lord, without paying for it?

9. But why are the taxes ſo high?

Becauſe of the national debt. They muſt be while this continues. I have heard that the national expence, in time of peace, was, ſixty years ago, three millions a-year. Now the bare intereſt of the public debt amounts to above four millions: to raiſe which, with the other expences of government, thoſe taxes are abſolutely neceſſary.

II. Here is the evil, but where is the remedy? Perhaps it exceeds all the wiſdom of man to tell. But it may not be amiſs to offer a few hints on this delicate ſubject.

1. What remedy is there for this ſore evil. Many thouſand poor people are ſtarving?

Find them work, and you will find them meat. They will then earn and eat their own bread.

2. But how ſhall their maſters give them work, without ruining themſelves?

Procure vent for it, and it will not hurt their maſters to give them as much work as they can do. And this will be done by ſinking the price of proviſions: for then people will have money to buy other things too.

3. But how can the price of wheat be reduced?

By prohibiting, for ever, that bane of health, that deſtroyer of ſtrength, of life, and of virtue, diſtilling. Perhaps this alone will anſwer the whole deſign. If any thing more be needful, may not all ſtarch be made of rice? and the importation of this, as well as wheat, be encouraged?

4. How can the price of oats be reduced?

By reducing the number of horſes. And may not this be effectually done, 1. By laying a tax of ten pounds on every horſe exported to France; 2. By laying an additional tax on gentlemens carriages; not ſo much for every wheel, (bareſaced ſhameleſs partiality), but ten pounds yearly for every horſe? And theſe two taxes alone would nearly ſupply as much as is now given for leave to poiſon his Majeſty's liege ſubjects.

5. How can the price of beef and mutton be reduced?

By increaſing the breed of ſheep and horned cattle. And this would be increaſed ſevenfold, if the price of horſes were reduced; which it ſurely would be half in half, by the method above-mentioned.

6. How can the price of pork and poultry be reduced?

Firſt, by letting no farms of above an hundred pounds a-year.

Secondly, by repreſſing luxury, either by example, by laws, or both.

7. How may the price of land be reduced?

By all the methods above named, all which tend to leſſen the expence of houſekeeping; but eſpecially the laſt, reſtraining luxury, which is the grand ſource of poverty.

8. How may the taxes be reduced?

By diſcharging half the national debt, and ſo ſaving at leaſt two millions a-year.

How this can be done, the wiſdom of the great council of the land can beſt determine. —*I am, &c.* JOHN WESLEY.

SIR, *December* 1772.

AS many people are ignorant of the danger of laurel to cattle, I write this for their information; having myſelf formerly loſt two fine heifers by their eating the leaves of that tree, and laſt week again being very near loſing ſix cows, who got into an incloſed clump of ever-greens, amongſt which was a great deal of laurel. The cow which had eaten the moſt plentifully of it, was ſo ſwelled, that I thought ſhe would have burſt. The others were very ſick; but by keeping them continually in motion for an hour or more, and withholding them from water all that day, and by giving a pint of ſallad oil to the ſwelled cow, they were all recovered. It is known that yew has the ſame bad effects.

M. G.

Medical Tranſactions, publiſhed by the college of phyſicians in London. Vol. 2. [155.]

IT is judiciouſly obſerved, in an advertiſement which is prefixed to this work, that the experience of many ages has ſhewn mere abſtract reaſonings to tend very little to the promotion of natural knowledge; and that, by laying theſe aſide, and attending carefully to what Nature, either by chance or by experiment, has offered to our obſervation, a greater progreſs has been made in this part of philoſophy, ſince the beginning of the laſt century, than had been made to that time from the days of Ariſtotle.

To carry the improvement ſtill farther by the ſame means, the college of phyſicians are deſirous to receive and publiſh any medical papers that ſhall be offered; and though their principal view is to perfect the hiſtory of diſeaſes, and aſcertain the effects of medicine, yet papers which in any manner relate to medical ſubjects will be received.

It is alſo obſerved, that many of thoſe who have given their obſervations to the world, have purpoſely ſelected ſuch as were rare and extraordinary: but that although theſe may be worth preſerving, becauſe all facts teach ſomething, yet they ſhould by no means be preferred; as the end of ſuch collections as are now offered to the public, is not to gratify curioſity, but increaſe practical knowledge.

On the contrary, ſingle caſes which occur in common diſtempers every day, and accounts of the ordinary effects of medicine, would at once be endleſs and unneceſſary. The great object is, to publiſh accounts of ſuch important additions or exceptions to the general practice as may occur: and it is moſt earneſtly to be wiſhed, that writers would not confine themſelves to their *ſucceſsful* practice; a phyſician of great eminence might write a very uſeful paper, by giving an account of ſuch methods as he had found to be unſucceſsful or pernicious.

Art. 18. *The caſe of Mr Thomas Wood, a miller, of Billericay, Eſſex. Communicated by George Baker, M. D. Phyſician in ordinary to his Majeſty.*

Thomas Wood is now fifty-three years old. His parents were intemperate, and he was rheumatic before he was thirteen. A favourable ſmall-pox then rendered him healthy, and he had no complaints till he was forty-three. He had long indulged himſelf to exceſs in eating voraciouſly of fat meat three times a-day, with large quantities of butter and cheeſe. He alſo drank ſtrong ale for his common drink. When he was about forty, he began to grow very fat; but his appetite was ſtill good, and his ſleep unbroken. Soon after he entered into his 44th year, he began firſt to be diſturbed in his ſleep, and to complain of the heart-burn, frequent ſickneſs at his ſtomach, pains in his bowels, headach, and vertigo; he was ſometimes coſtive, ſometimes in the other extreme; had conſtant thirſt, great depreſſion of ſpirits, violent rheumatiſm, and frequent attacks of the gout: he had alſo two epileptic fits: but what moſt alarmed him was, a ſenſe of ſuffocation, which often came upon him, particularly after his meals. Under ſuch a complication of diſeaſes, he continued till he was 45, in 1764, when the life of Cornaro was put into his hand. Being convinced by this book, that intemperance was the cauſe of all his complaints, he began by uſing animal food ſparingly, and taking only one pint of his ale a-day. Under this regimen, he grew better; and, at the end of two months, he became more ſparing in his animal food, and took but half a pint of his ale in a day. In this courſe he continued above ſix months, when he left off the uſe of malt liquor entirely, Jan. 4. 1765, drinking nothing but water, and eating only light meats. Some of his complaints, however, ſtill remained; he was tormented with the rheumatiſm, and had, now and then, a flight fit of the gout. At the end of about five months more, he began the uſe of the cold bath, and uſed it twice a-week for near three years. About the ſame time he alſo began to ring the dumb bell, which he ſtill continues.

From the beginning of June 1765, to the 25th of the following October, water was his only drink; and, from that time, he drank no more, till the 9th of May 1766, about ſeven months; he then drank two glaſſes and a half of water; ſince which time he has drank no more of any liquor, except what he has taken in the form of medicine. Since the 30th of June 1767, he has abſtained from cheeſe, having renounced butter ſomewhat ſooner. The 31ſt of the July following was the

the laſt day which he taſted fleſh; and his diet ever ſince has been principally pudding made of ſea-biſcuit. He takes but little ſleep, generally going to bed about eight, and riſing before two. His health is eſtabliſhed, his ſpirits lively, and his ſleep ſound. His muſcular ſtrength is alſo ſo much improved, that he can carry a quarter of a ton weight, which he could not do when he was thirty years of age. His voice, which was loſt for ſeveral years, is now clear and ſtrong; his fleſh is firm, his colour freſh, and, though he is ſuppoſed to have loſt between ten and eleven ſtone, the integuments of his belly are not looſe and pendulous, but contracted nearly in proportion to the diminution of his bulk. He has a tranquillity of mind which he never enjoyed before, and his plain diet is now become as agreeable to him as his fat meat and ſtrong ale; ſo that he pays no tax for the health and happineſs he enjoys.

To the queſtion, "What firſt induced him to abſtain from all drink?" he anſwered, That his ſervant having one day forgot to bring him his water at dinner, he drank none, and, having obſerved, that he was leſs oppreſſed by that meal than common, he determined to try whether a total abſtinence from all liquors would not improve his regimen. He added, that he was encouraged in this experiment by an obſervation he had made in feeding hogs: he never ſuffers theſe animals to drink, and his pork is highly valued for the whiteneſs and firmneſs of its fleſh. He uſes much exerciſe, particularly riding; but no degree or continuance of labour produces ſenſible perſpiration. His pulſe ſeldom beats forty-ſeven times in a minute, he makes every day about a pint and a half of urine, and has ſeldom more than one ſtool in two days. He never catches cold, though he is thinly clad, and expoſes himſelf to all weathers.

The pudding, which is now, and has many years been, his only food, is made of one pound of the flour of which the beſt kind of ſea-biſcuit is made, boiled with a pint and an half of ſkimmed milk.

The paper containing the account is dated September 1771.

[The college have thought proper to declare, That, as a body, they do not mean to vouch for the truth of any relation, or to give authority to any opinion, contained in the papers here publiſhed. G.]

LONDON.

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to

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Hiſtory, Law, Politics, &c.

The hiſtory of Hindoſtan, from the death of Akbar, to the complete ſettlement of the empire under Aurungzebe. To which are prefixed, 1. A diſſertation on the origin and nature of deſpotiſm in Hindoſtan. 2. An inquiry into the ſtate of Bengal; with a plan for reſtoring that kingdom to its former proſperity and ſplendor. By Alexander Dow, Eſq; Lieutenant-Colonel in the Company's ſervice. Vol. 3. 4to. [xxx 533.] 1 l. 1 s. boards. *Becket & De Hondt,*

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The way to pleaſe him; or, The hiſtory of Lady Sedley. 2 vols. 6 s. *Noble.* —— The ſubject of the foregoing article is particularly addreſſed to *unmarried* ladies; that before us, ſeems to be as well executed for the inſtruction of *married* ones. Thoſe eſpecially who have huſbands of a roving turn, and ſtrongly diſpoſed to neglect their wives, in ſearch of temporary intimacies with other women, will be intereſted in the peruſal of theſe volumes. The hero of the piece behaves

haves in a manner ſufficient to provoke the heroine's reſentment; while ſhe, by her uncommon diſcretion and addreſs, appears in a moſt amiable light. To ſpeak in leſs elevated terms, Lady Sedley, is, indeed, an exemplary wife, and may ſerve as a pattern to married ladies in ſimilar circumſtances. Thoſe circumſtances are far from being extraordinary: and if married women would take the pains to pleaſe the men with whom they are united for life, there would be fewer matrimonial complaints, fewer ſeparations, fewer divorces. C.

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EDINBURGH.

Book-keeping methodiz'd; or, Merchant-accounts by double entry, according to the Italian form. By John Mair, A. M. 7 s. *Kincaid & Creech and Bell.* —— "About the year 1736, I wrote a treatiſe on merchant-accounts, publiſhed under the title of *Book-keeping methodiz'd*, which had the good fortune to meet with a favourable reception from the public, and has now run through a great many editions both in Britain and Ireland. But as forms and faſhions in accountantſhip, as well as in other things, are in a perpetual flux, and continually changing, I reſolved once more to turn my thoughts on this uſeful and important ſubject, with a view to expunge whatever might appear leſs modiſh, or obſolete, and give the whole a higher degree of perfection, and conſequently a better title to public approbation. Now it is eaſy to perceive, that, in this undertaking, new ſets of books, and thoſe taken from real buſineſs, would be neceſſary; that the additions and alterations would be various and numerous: upon which conſiderations I concluded, that the moſt effectual way would be, to compoſe a new treatiſe on the ſame plan with the old. Accordingly, retaining the outlines of the former work, I mean the diviſion of the whole into books, chapters, and problems, as before, and filling theſe up, either from the old book, or with new materials, as the caſe required, I at laſt made out the following treatiſe, which is here preſented to the public under the title of BOOK-KEEPING MODERNIZ'd. — To the treatiſe of Book-keeping is ſubjoined a large Appendix, containing a great variety of things, proper and neceſſary for an accountant to be acquainted with. — The method propoſed for keeping the accounts of a land-eſtate, will, it is preſumed, be the more acceptable, in regard this is a ſubject of great importance, and hitherto much neglected by authors." *Preface.*

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Epitaph

Epitaph on a fair Maiden Lady at Bath.

By JOHN DRYDEN.

BElow this marble monument is laid
All that Heav'n wants of this celeſtial maid.
Preſerve, O ſacred tomb, thy truſt conſign'd;
The mould was made on purpoſe for the mind,
And ſhe would loſe, if at the latter day,
One atom could be mix'd with other clay.
Such were the features of her heav'nly face,
Her limbs were form'd with ſuch harmonious grace,
So faultleſs was the frame, as if the whole
Had been an emanation of the ſoul,
Which her own inward ſymmetry reveal'd,
And, like a picture ſhone, in glaſs anneal'd;
Or like the ſun eclips'd, with ſhaded light,
Too piercing elſe to be ſuſtain'd by ſight.
Each thought was viſible that roll'd within,
As thro' a cryſtal caſe the figur'd hours are ſeen;
And Heav'n did this tranſparent veil provide,
Becauſe ſhe had no guilty thought to hide.
All white, a virgin ſaint, ſhe ſought the ſkies;
For marriage, though it ſullies not, it dyes.
High tho' her wit, yet humble was her mind,
As if ſhe could not, or ſhe would not find,
How much her worth tranſcended all her kind.
Yet ſhe had learn'd ſo much of Heav'n below,
That, when arriv'd, ſhe ſcarce had more to know,
But only to refreſh the former hint,
And read her Maker in a fairer print.
So pious as ſhe had no time to ſpare
For human thoughts, but was confin'd to pray'r;
Yet in ſuch charities ſhe ſpent the day,
'Twas wond'rous how ſhe found an hour to pray.
A ſoul ſo calm, it knew not ebbs or flows,
Which paſſion could but curl, not diſcompoſe.
A female ſoftneſs, with a manly mind,
A daughter duteous and a ſiſter kind,
In ſickneſs patient, and in death reſign'd.

SONNET.

Written by Mary Queen of Scots, in her paſſage from France to Scotland.

" *Oh ma patrie très cherie!*
" *Où je paſſai ma jeuneſſe,*" &c.

OH thou lov'd country, where my youth was ſpent,
Dear golden times, all paſs'd in ſweet content!
Where the fair morning of my clouded day
Shone mildly bright, and temperately gay;
Dear France, adieu! a long and ſad farewell!
No thought can image, and no tongue can tell,
The pangs I feel at that drear word *Farewell!*
The ſhip that wafts me from thy friendly ſhore
Conveys my body, but conveys no more.
My ſoul is thine, that ſpark of heavenly flame,
That better portion of my mingled frame,
Is wholly thine; that part I give to thee,
That in the temple of thy memory
The other ever may inſhrined be.

L. L. LEACHLADE.

Stanzas on the recovery of Dr QUIN *of Dublin from a late dangerous indiſpoſition.*

AS late, at *Quin's* devoted head
The ruthleſs tyrant aim'd his dart,
Around a general horror ſpread,
And anguiſh ſeiz'd on ev'ry heart:

When, burſting from a golden cloud,
Awake, alive to human woe,
A Seraph voice was heard aloud—
" Yet, monſter, yet, ſuſpend the blow—

Diſeaſe and Pain demand his aid;
From him the orphan claims his ſire;
Unnumber'd vows for him are paid:
With him unnumber'd hopes expire.

Tho' rare, alas! on earth to find
An heart ſo fitted for the ſkies,
Yet, Heaven in pity to mankind,
His perfect bliſs a-while denies.—

The fears of Friendſhip to remove;
To wipe the tear from Pity's eye;
To baniſh from the breaſt of Love
The dread ſuſpenſe, the anxious ſigh;

To ſpare the child to helpleſs age,
Juſt trembling on the verge of life;
To ſhield from Fate's ſevereſt rage
The bleeding boſom of the wife:

For this HE lives.—Yet Heaven purſues
To nobler ends its vaſt deſigns,
Nor to weak man's contracted views
Supreme benevolence confines:

On higher aims intent—to ſpare
Whom Vice hath led from Truth aſtray,
Till holy Penitence and Prayer
To Mercy's throne ſhall ope the way:

To mark to man, the ſlave of Senſe,
Bewilder'd in this vale of ſtrife,
('Till Heaven ſhall, late, require him hence)
The bright example of his life."—

The Angel ended—From on high
Reſponſive warblings breathe along,
The Pæons ſwell through earth and ſky,
And Nature joins the choral ſong.

Dublin, Sept. 29. 1772.

The Lawyer's Prayer: A fragment. [xxix. 23.]

ORdain'd to tread the thorny ground,
Where few, I fear, are faithful found,
Mine be the conſcience void of blame,
The upright heart, the ſpotleſs name,
The tribute of the widow's pray'r,
The righted orphan's grateful tear;
To Virtue and her friends a friend,
Still may my voice the weak defend:
Ne'er may my proſtituted tongue
Protect th' oppreſſor in his wrong,
Nor wreſt the ſpirit of the laws
To ſanctify the villain's cauſe.
Let others, with unſparing hand,
Scatter their poiſon through the land;

Inflame diſſenſion, kindle ſtrife,
And ſtrew with ills the path of life.
On ſuch her gifts let Fortune ſhow'r,
Add wealth to wealth, and pow'r to pow'r.
On me may fav'ring Heav'n beſtow
That peace which good men only know;
The joy of joys, by few poſſeſs'd,
Th' eternal ſunſhine of the breaſt.
Pow'r, fame, and riches I reſign;
The praiſe of honeſty be mine;
That friends may weep, the worthy ſigh,
And poor men bleſs me when I die.

STREPHON and BELINDA.

YE blooming virgins hear my ſong;
Attend ye love-ſick ſwains,
And liſten to the woful tale
I ſing in doleful ſtrains!

Young *Strephon*, catch'd in Cupid's toils,
Receiv'd the poignant dart;
Belinda look'd, ſhe ſigh'd conſent,
And gave a willing heart.

In arbors, and in woodbine ſhades,
Where warblers ſtretch'd their pow'rs,
This am'rous couple often met,
And paſs'd the ſhort-liv'd hours.

The bloſſoms of *ſweet Hope* appear'd;
The flowers then fully ſpread:
The little loves, in wanton play,
Flew hov'ring o'er their head?

Fair ſportive Fancy danc'd around,
And blew the kindled flame;
While *Virtue*, bound in holy chains,
Threw fewel to the gleam.

Now *Hymen's torch*, with gentle gales
New fann'd, had left the bow'r;
Guiding the pair to Venus' hall,
To 'tend the happy hour.

The Marriage-rites were ſcarce begun,
(I ſhrink, the tale to tell)
Death ſeiz'd *the maid*, with cold — cold hand!
She ſwoon'd! ſhe ſunk! ſhe fell!

From bluſhes, and from roſy looks,
Her cheeks grew deadly pale;
Life's *crimſon liquid* ceas'd to flow,
And cures wou'd not prevail.

Nature's beſt time-piece now had ſtopp'd;
Chain, ſpring, and works gave way:
Where *virtuous Love* ſo lately ſmil'd,
Now lay a corpſe of clay.

The *feeling Strephon*'s eyes had dimm'd,
When the ſad ſcene began;
Relentleſs Death with imbru'd hands
Fell on th' unhappy man.

One bier, one grave, contain'd the *pair*,
Their tomb with oſiers rear'd,
Knit faſt in life with Love's cement,
By Death's hand not ſever'd.

Nov. 16. 1772. J. R. L.

A SONG for the FREE MASONS.

By Mr CUNINGHAM.

LET *Maſonry* from pole to pole
Her ſacred laws expand,
Far as the mighty waters roll,
To wath remoteſt land!
That virtue has not *left* mankind,
Her ſocial maxims prove,
For ſtamp'd upon the *Maſon's* mind
Are UNITY and LOVE.

Aſcending to her native ſky
Let Maſonry increaſe!
A glorious *pillar* rais'd on high,
Integrity its baſe:
Peace adds to olive-boughs, entwin'd,
An emblematic dove;
As ſtamp'd upon the Maſon's mind
Are UNITY and LOVE!

INSCRIPTION on the monument of Mrs PRITCHARD, *which was put up, on Wedneſday, Nov.* 4. *at the eaſt end of Weſtminſter abbey, next to Shakeſpeare, and oppoſite to Handel's monument.*

THIS tablet is here placed by a voluntary ſubſcription of thoſe who admired and eſteemed her. She retired from the ſtage, of which ſhe had long been the ornament, in the month of April 1768 [xxx. 212], and died at Bath in the month of Auguſt following, in the 57th year of her age.

HER comic vein had every charm to pleaſe,
'Twas Nature's dictates breath'd with Nature's eaſe.
E'en when her powers ſuſtain'd the tragic load,
Full, clear, and juſt, th' harmonious accents flow'd;
And the big paſſions of her feeling heart
Burſt freely forth, and ſham'd the mimic art.
Oft, on the ſcene, with colours not her own,
She painted Vice, and taught us what to ſhun.
One virtuous track her real life purſu'd;
That nobler part was uniformly good.
Each duty there to ſuch perfection wrought,
That, if the Precepts fail'd, th' Example taught.

W. WHITEHEAD, P. L.

EPITAPH on Gen. WOLFE.

VAin are the ſculptur'd effigies of Fame,
Beneath whoſe clarion ſhades forgotten lie;
Vain are the records of the titled name!
The Muſe alone forbids the brave to die!

Why then to thee theſe honours do we pay,
Untitled WOLFE, in thine own merits great?
Can theſe preſerve thy glories from decay?
Can marble lengthen their immortal date?

Thine obſequies, grac'd with a nation's tears,
Need not th' aſſiſtance of the ſculptor's art;
Th' hiſtoric pen the faireſt trophy rears,
The faireſt tablet is a nation's heart!

D——.

HI

HISTORICAL AFFAIRS.

TURKY.

"*Peterſburg, Nov.* 23. By the treaty juſt ſigned with the Tartars of Crimea, they renounce the government of the Ottoman Porte, and put themſelves under the protection of the Ruſſian empire, yielding to us the two fortreſſes of Jenicala and Kertſch, with the territories belonging to them. In return, the Empreſs ſurrenders to them the reſt of the Crimea, with all the places and fortreſſes conquered by her troops without exception, upon condition that no Turkiſh garriſon ſhall ever be placed in them for the future. Thus the affairs of Crimea are at length ſettled; and it is imagined the Porte will no longer perſiſt in obſtructing the peace, on account of her pretenſions to that country."

"*Peterſburg, Nov.* 27. By letters from M. Romanzow we learn, that M. Obreſcow had informed him of his having met the Turkiſh miniſter at Buchareſt on the 27th of October, that they exchanged their powers on the 28th, and on the 29th had ſettled a truce till the 9th of March." *Lond. gaz.*

"*Extract of a letter from the Ruſſian reſident at Venice, Dec.* 4. *to Pr. Gallitzin, the Ruſſian miniſter at the Hague, received Dec.* 17. — I have the honour to ſend your Excellency the following agreeable news, which the ſenate has juſt received from Corfu. Three of our frigates of war, and two ſmall veſſels, were fitted out againſt the armament of the Baſhaw of Scutari, who had ſent to ſea thirty-one armed veſſels, ten of which were taken by the Raguſians, and fourteen more were driven into the gulf of Patraſſo, where they took ſhelter under the cannon of the fort; but our brave commander, notwithſtanding the fire from the fortreſs, entered courageouſly, and ſet fire to all the Turkiſh veſſels, not one of which eſcaped. The Turkiſh commander, who was ſon of the Baſhaw of Scutari, made his eſcape precipitately on ſhore, and the reſt of the crews followed his example: but our people purſued them, and killed a great number of the Turks. This affair happened on the 8th of November. Our commandant having received advice that the reſt of the Turkiſh ſquadron was gone to Lepanto, ſteered his courſe thither in order to deſtroy them likewiſe."

"*Leghorn, Dec.* 16. A veſſel arrived from Alexandria brings an account, that a ſaique arrived there Oct. 27. who met a Ruſſian ſquadron two days before, which he ſuppoſed to be the ſame which was ſent to ſuccour Ali Bey, who has at laſt taken Jaffa and Rama, and is not far from Cairo."

POLAND.

"*Warſaw, Nov.* 28. The Ruſſians ſeem as if they intended to keep their new acquiſitions in Poland. They treat the inhabitants very kindly. The Nobles eſtates pay no contribution, and the Gentlemen are ſubject to no capitation-tax, provided they prove their nobility, and their right to the eſtate they poſſeſs. The Citizens pay an annual poll-tax of one ruble and a quarter each. The Farmers contribute the ſame taxes they uſed to pay, and are permitted to ſell their corn where they pleaſe. There will be a tax on liquors, and thoſe who pay it may brew and diſtil for themſelves. The Eccleſiaſtics are obliged to give an account of their foundation, and the number of religious in each convent. The Nobility and the Towns are under the ſame juriſdiction they were. They have ceaſed to demand forage and proviſions, but the neighbouring Poliſh provinces pay double what they did before."

"*Warſaw, Dec.* 11. The potentates who have divided the Poliſh kingdom between them, ſeem much intereſted in the happineſs of its inhabitants. Every wiſe precaution and conciliating meaſure are uſed to ſettle all differences, and reſtore peace. In that part which the Pruſſian monarch has appropriated to his own uſe, trade already begins to appear; and proviſions of all kinds are in great plenty, where a ſcarcity reigned before."

"*From the Viſtula, Nov.* 19. Large duties are raiſed on all merchandiſe ſent from Dantzick to Poland; and likewiſe on all goods ſent from Poland to Dantzick. Money in ſpecie is forbidden to be ſent to Elbing, or other places, by any other conveyance than the poſt, and for which two fifths per cent. of the ſum is to be paid."

"*Hague, Dec.* 25. They write from Dantzick, it may be remembered, that the King of Pruſſia ſignified to the magiſtrates of that place by his reſident there, that he was willing to have a commiſſion eſtabliſhed to inquire into and ſettle the rights of his territories and trade, for

which purpoſe ſome of the members of the different chambers were to be deputed. The ſenate has lately declared, that no ſuch deputation can be made without the conſent of the King of Poland, as being a party intereſted in the duties collected at Dantzick; and that as to the town, its rights with reſpect to trade are ſo firmly eſtabliſhed by their moſt ſolemn treaties, and the guaranty of ſeveral reſpectable powers, that it is unneceſſary to enter into any conferences on that ſubject. Since this anſwer, the town of Dantzick has been ſurrounded by Pruſſian troops; which makes the inhabitants very apprehenſive that his Pruſſian Majeſty may have a deſign to ſeize upon it by ſurpriſe."

"*Warſaw, Dec.* 3. Several letters from Pruſſia ſay, that a Pruſſian fiſcal has been all over the new acquiſitions of that court, and has announced to all the ſenators of Poliſh Pruſſia, that they are not to go to Warſaw to aſſiſt at the aſſembly of the ſenate, under pain of having their effects and prerogatives confiſcated. As theſe ſenators will be ſummoned by the King and the Republic to aſſiſt at that aſſembly, one may judge of the imbarraſſment they are in about it."

"*Warſaw, Dec.* 9. The courts of Vienna, Peterſburg, and Berlin, finding that all their endeavours toward the ſpeedy appointing of a diet, have proved fruitleſs, their miniſters have given in a declaration to the King, inſiſting on the holding of a diet ſhortly, in the ſtrongeſt terms, and even accompanied with threats. It is ſaid, that when the above mentioned miniſters delivered this declaration, they ſaid, "That their reſpective courts meant to have a diet held the 3d of February next; in default of which, the troops of their ſovereigns will appear before this capital."

"*Hague, Dec.* 18. They write from Ratiſbon, that the King of Poland has lately written a letter to the general diet of the Empire, in which he makes heavy complaints againſt the diviſion of his kingdom by the courts of Vienna, Peterſburg, and Berlin. This letter is ſaid to have made a ſtrong impreſſion upon the miniſters who compoſe the diet; inaſmuch as it is therein ſet forth, that all the Princes of the Empire are in a precarious ſituation with reſpect to their poſſeſſions, if the natural rights of nations, and the faith of treaties, are no longer regarded, and every engagement, however ſacred, is ſacrificed to intereſt and convenience."

"*Hague, Dec.* 21. Yeſterday the Engliſh ambaſſador had a conference with the States-General, relative to the late diviſion of Poland, and the King of Pruſſia's behaviour with reſpect to Dantzick, in order to concert how England and Holland may act in conjunction on thoſe important objects."

"*Vienna, Dec.* 12. Letters from the confines of Poland mention, that the King has invited all the Poliſh Nobility whom the troubles of their country have forced to leave it, to come to Warſaw, and that thoſe who are in Moravia and Auſtrian Sileſia have ſet out for that capital."

SWEDEN.

"*Hague, Dec.* 8. The laſt letters from Hamburg brought declarations made by the King of Sweden and the King of Denmark, by which thoſe two monarchs give the ſtrongeſt aſſurances to each other of the moſt ſincere friendſhip and harmony; in conſequence of which all warlike preparations on both ſides are to ceaſe; and the King of Sweden has ordered his troops that were marching towards the frontiers of Norway to return immediately to the garriſons from whence they came; ſo that there is no longer any thing to be apprehended in the north.—These letters add, that the King of Sweden, in order to put in execution the plans which he has formed for the good of his kingdom, is obliged to draw out of the bank eſtabliſhed at Stockholm, the amount of thirty tons of gold." [xxx. 19.]

"*Hague, Dec.* 25. They write from Stockholm, that a ſubſcription is made there to prevent the dearneſs of proviſions, to which every inhabitant is voluntarily to give one penny a-week, and, in proportion, whoever can ſpare a trifle more (not exceeding one hundred dollars per annum) is to bring it to the treaſurers appointed by that ſociety; after which all ſorts of proviſions are to be imported free from duty; and the proviſions ſo imported are to be ſold 50 per cent. under the market-price, to families who have no annual incomes, employments, ſhops, and ſufficient trade. This plan gives them the greateſt hopes of their being able to prevent the dearneſs of proviſions. They have already acquired above 100,000 ſubſcribers in one week's time, and five times as much is expected from the country, and other cities."

"*Extract*

"*Extract of a private letter from Stockholm, Dec.* 10. As theſe laſt two months the greateſt part of the Swediſh troops were on their march towards Norway, his Majeſty in his journey through the kingdom met them every where in the roads, and had the pleaſure, where-ever he met them, to review and exerciſe them. It happened on the 2d of this month, that his Majeſty, on coming to Wennerſburg, where the greateſt part of the Weſt Gothic Dahl regiment were quartered, the officers of that regiment, knowing his Majeſty's uſual cuſtom, put the troops in good order to be reviewed by the King himſelf. On his Majeſty's arrival, he immediately went on horſe-back, attended by his brother the Duke of Oſtergothland, and ſeveral of the nobility, in order to exerciſe the troops; when the officers forming themſelves into a line of battle, his Majeſty put himſelf at the head of one party, and his brother put himſelf at the head of the other party, and the reſpective officers having arranged themſelves in due order, the ceremony of the mock battle began. But juſt as the party oppoſite to his Majeſty were going to diſcharge their guns, his Majeſty, whoſe ſagacity and prudence nothing can eſcape, ordered a halt to be made, and the fire-arms to be examined, in order to prevent any miſchief; when, to his very great aſtoniſhment, he found the fire-arms charged with bullets.—No farther intelligence we have at preſent, as the report of it arrived but yeſterday at court, and but a few here are acquainted with it at preſent. So much is ſure, that his Majeſty and his attendants had but a very narrow eſcape. How little know the abſolute monarchs to what dangers they are expoſed!"

DENMARK.

"*London, Dec.* 3. Letters from Copenhagen adviſe, that the King of Denmark has ſentenced to perpetual impriſonment a Saxon officer, who had propoſed to the French ambaſſador a ſcheme for the deſtruction of a certain unfortunate potentate. The ambaſſador diſcovered the ſcheme to the King.

"*London, Dec.* 29. A letter from Copenhagen, dated Dec. 12. ſays, Nothing but a conſtant change of ſcenes is to be obſerved at our court almoſt every day. Every body muſt allow, that the conduct of our King, in the courſe of this year, is very remarkable. In foreign countries he has been publicly ſpoken of, and here privately deemed a man of no ſignificance at all in the political world. Yet all this while he has been ſecretly labouring to get on his ſide the chiefs of this nation, till at laſt he has, in an inviſible way, been reſtored to all his former royal dignity and ſovereignty. The Queen-dowager, as well as her ſon Prince Frederick, have not appeared at the court-days and drawing-rooms for theſe laſt three months. All her friends are baniſhed from court. His Majeſty never takes any advice from the board of council which was appointed for that purpoſe in January laſt; but has his unlimited royal will as before. Couriers almoſt every week are coming and going to and from Hanover."

"*London, Dec.* 31. They write from Copenhagen, that ſeveral gentlemen of rank, who were laſt winter baniſhed into Norway, have been recalled, among whom is a near relation of his M——y's, who was baniſhed by the Queen-dowager's council."

RUSSIA.

"*Peterſburg, Dec.* 1. When M. Durand, the miniſter from France, was admitted to his firſt audience of the Empreſs, he addreſſed her Majeſty as follows. "The credential letters which I have the honour to preſent to your Imperial Majeſty, will inform you of the ardent deſire of the King my maſter, to preſerve the friendſhip of your Majeſty. And who would not wiſh the friendſhip of a potentate who fixes the fate of ſo many ſtates, of a ſovereign whoſe innate ſpirit and courage excite the admiration of Europe and Aſia, of a potentate who inſtructs kings how far the will and the power, when they are united in the throne, and in one ſole head, have the ſtrength to effectuate the greateſt and moſt difficult deſigns."

"*Extract of a letter which Pr. Gallitzin, Ruſſian miniſter at the Hague, received there Dec.* 28. *dated, Peterſburg, Dec.* 8. On Sunday, Te Deum was ſung in the preſence of the Empreſs and the whole court, as a ſolemn thankſgiving for the ceſſation of the contagious diſtemper in this empire. The great precautions which the government took upon this occaſion, together with the ſevere froſt laſt winter, contributed not a little to ſtop this calamity; and, now we are quite free from it, orders are given to take off all the quarantines

rantines that were eſtabliſhed between the two capitals, and to leave only thoſe between Kiow and Moſcow, on account of the great numbers of people which are continually paſſing into the provinces conquered from the Porte. Conſidering the rapid progreſs which the diſtemper made throughout this extenſive empire, we ought to bleſs God that no more than 63,000 died of it, according to the accounts ſent from the different provinces to the ſenate.—After the ceſſation of this terrible ſcourge, we have only to hope that another may not ſucceed by means of a war. We have reaſon to believe, that the negotiations which have been carrying on will prove ſucceſsful; and till I can give you ſome ſatisfactory account of them, I can only ſay, that the armiſtice is prolonged till the 25th of March next; and we have received the ratification of the Chan of the Crimea to the treaty concluded here, concerning the independence of that country, under the protection of Ruſſia."

GERMANY.

"*Vienna, Nov.* 21. Sir Robert Murray Keith arrived here on Friday laſt, to ſucceed Lord Viſc. Stormont, as envoy-extraordinary from his Britannic Majeſty."

"*Berlin, Dec.* 8. By the humane and wiſe precautions of the Pruſſian monarch, the diſtreſſes of the poor in Berlin and the adjacent country have been greatly alleviated. The bounties allowed on bringing in corn, cattle, &c. and fuel, with the ſevere penalties laid on ſecreting thoſe articles, have had the deſired effect: public magazines have been opened, and corn ſold at a very moderate price; and the markets for ſome weeks paſt have been greatly overſtocked with cattle, which has much reduced the price.—The King enjoys but a precarious ſtate of health, and is often confined to his chamber, but his aſſiduity in buſineſs ceaſes not."

"*Vienna, Dec.* 12. A very material and intereſting change in the Imperial miniſtry has lately taken place, entirely owing to the Emperor's own pleaſure. The prime miniſter, who is nearly related to the firſt families in the kingdom, has been recompenſed with a genteel penſion, and a grant of lands in Hungary. The new-choſen premier is only to act in a ſubordinate light to the Emperor, who executes the weighteſt affairs of ſtate himſelf, and with the ſtricteſt propriety and juſtice; from which, and his many known virtues, the greateſt hopes are formed of the future happineſs of the empire."

UNITED PROVINCES.

"*Amſterdam, Dec.* 18. By a ſhip arrived in the Texel the day before yeſterday, which left Surinam the 12th of laſt month, we have the agreeable news, that every thing was in good order the day before the ſaid ſhip left Surinam, the inſurrection of the negroes being entirely got the better of, through the aſſiſtance of 300 free negroes, and 200 of our ſoldiers. The free negroes being acquainted with all their private haunts in the woods, brought the ſoldiers at once into the middle of their fortreſs, which is called *Buce*, where an obſtinate battle enſued. The ſlaves, however, were routed; 70 were killed on the ſpot, 200 made priſoners, and the reſt took to flight. All their fortifications in the woods were immediately deſtroyed. The vaſt quantities of warlike ſtores found in their fortreſſes in the woods is matter of ſurpriſe to every one; as it is amazing to think how they have found either time or opportunity to have made ſuch preparations. Every thing they had plundered in the plantations, houſes, and villages, has been found, and returned to their proper owners."

"*Amſterdam, Dec.* 19. Private letters from Surinam mention, that the fugitive and rebellious negroes are effectually chaſed from their town, but that they are retired deeper into the woods, from whence it will be more difficult to drive them than from where they were before. Theſe advices add, that moſt of the priſoners taken in the laſt attack were women and children."

FRANCE.

"*Verſailles, Dec.* 9. The Prince of Conde and the Duke of Bourbon having written to the King, to aſſure him of their ſubmiſſion to his pleaſure; and his Majeſty having given permiſſion that they ſhould be admitted to his preſence, the 7th inſt. they had the honour to pay their reſpects to him, and alſo to the reſt of the Royal Family."

"*Paris, Dec.* 12. Letters from Marſeilles mention a riot having happened at the playhouſe there, occaſioned at firſt by the comedians perſiſting in repreſenting

ing a piece highly diſagreeable to the public. Some grenadiers were called in to quell the riot, but expreſsly directed not to fire, in order to prevent any accident. However, a perſon in the pit, who having expected a diſturbance, had armed himſelf with a piſtol, as ſoon as he ſaw the grenadiers, ſhot one of them dead; and they were then ordered to fire, by which means ſeveral people were killed and wounded. This affair has thrown the whole town of Marſeilles into conſternation."

"*Paris, Dec.* 20. The troubles which have ſo long diſtracted this unhappy kingdom have now ſome appearance of ſubſiding. The Chancellor Maupeau, we hear, is to be removed from his office. It is certain that Madame de Barré has loſt great part of her influence; the Prince of Conde with the Duke D'Orleans are reſtored to the King's favour in a greater degree than ever; and it is hoped the people will ſoon be relieved from the oppreſſion which now burthens them."

"*London, Dec.* 31. The French miniſtry have received an account, that two veſſels are arrived at Port L'Orient, from the iſle of Bourbon, near Madagaſcar, the officers and crews of which have affirmed, in the moſt ſolemn manner, that after their ſailing fourteen days from the iſle of Bourbon, towards the ſouthward, they actually fell in with and diſcovered the ſo-much-talked-of ſouthern continent, the diſcovery of which has been the object of ſo many attempts by various nations. They coaſted it for eight days, but did not venture to proceed on ſhore, though the country ſeemed to appear very agreeable, and was diverſified with a great variety of trees and ſhrubs. In conſequence of this information, orders have been iſſued to fit out, with all expedition, two frigates of war, provided with every thing proper for extending ſo very momentous a diſcovery."

PORTUGAL.

"*Lisbon, Nov.* 17. We have juſt received the diſagreeable news here, that a general diſaffection now reigns through all the Brazils, amongſt the negroes, Indian ſlaves, &c. In the captainſhips of Para and Maragnan they have frequently riſen; and when their defeat has enſued, they fly to the Indians in the internal part of the country, where, it is ſaid, they have a very formidable body; and as moſt of them underſtand the European manner of fighting, and are furniſhed with arms, &c. the report of their intention to extirpate the Portugueſe entirely gains ground every day, and fills all perſons with apprehenſions for their lives and properties. Every method is taken to ſuppreſs theſe fears. The garriſon of Corpura is added to that of Para or Belem, and the guards on the frontiers towards the Amazons country are doubled."

"*Lisbon, Dec.* 1. The news which has been received of the diſturbances in the Brazils, has been repeatedly confirmed by every veſſel that has arrived from South America, though it is hoped, by the vigilance of the Portugueſe governors and commanders, they will ſoon be compromiſed. The court of Liſbon have ordered four ſhips of war and ſome tranſports, with three regiments of infantry and one of cavalry, to imbark immediately, in caſe an emergency ſhould demand their aſſiſtance."

BARBARY.

"*Algiers, Oct.* 20. The Dey and regency of this kingdom have given permiſſion to the merchants of the French nation to build an hoſpital, with a convent and chapel, in the eaſt ſuburbs of the city; likewiſe many particular privileges in regard to commerce, &c. have been granted to them. The French conſul is in ſuch high eſteem at the Algerine court, that the Dey purchaſes all the European merchandiſe of him, and has granted the liberty of freeing ſix ſlaves annually. But it is for intereſted views that the French are in ſuch high favour: The Dey has of late paid a particular attention to fortifying his towns, and putting his marine on a reſpectable footing; the French are ſerviceable to him in this; they ſell him ammunition, and warlike ſtores, at a lower price, than the Engliſh, Dutch, Swedes, or any other nation can. French artificers and engineers ſuperintend all his works, a number of ſhipwrights of the ſame nation work in his dock-yards, and the grand admiral of his fleet is a French renegado."

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

"*Boſton, Nov.* 5. On Wedneſday laſt the freeholders, and other inhabitants of this town, met at Faneuil-hall, to inquire into the grounds of a report that prevails, that ſalaries are annexed to the offices of the judges of the ſuperior court

of

of judicature of this province, whereby they are rendered independent of the grants of the general aſſembly for their ſupport, contrary to ancient and invariable uſage; and to take ſuch meaſures thereupon as might be proper on ſo alarming an occaſion.

After the coolеſt and moſt candid debate and deliberation, the Town came into a very full vote, (there being only one hand held up againſt it, and that through inattention, as the perſon aſſures us), to prepare a decent and reſpectful meſſage to the Governor, for the firſt purpoſe aforeſaid. And in the afternoon a meſſage was prepared and approved; and William Phillips, Eſq; the Hon. James Otis, Eſq; Mr Samuel Adams, Dr Joſeph Warren, Dr Benjamin Church, Mr Timothy Newell, and Col. Thomas Marſhall, were appointed to wait on his Excellency with the ſame. Then the meeting was adjourned until the Friday following.

The meſſage above mentioned is as follows.

"*May it pleaſe your Excellency,*

The freeholders and other inhabitants of the town of Boſton legally aſſembled in Faneuil-hall, beg leave to acquaint your Excellency, that a report has prevailed, which they have reaſon to apprehend is well grounded, that ſtipends are affixed to the offices of the judges of the ſuperior court of judicature, &c. of this province, whereby they are become independent of the grants of the general aſſembly for their ſupport, contrary to ancient and invariable uſage.

This report has ſpread an alarm among all conſiderate perſons who have heard of it, in town and country; being viewed as tending rapidly to complete the ſyſtem of their ſlavery; which originated in the Houſe of Commons of Great Britain, aſſuming a power and authority to give and grant the monies of the coloniſts without their conſent, and againſt their repeated remonſtrances: and as the judges hold their places during pleaſure, this eſtabliſhment appears big with fatal evils, ſo obvious that it is needleſs to treſpaſs on your Excellency's time in mentioning them.

It is therefore the humble and earneſt requeſt of the Town, that your Excellency would be pleaſed to inform them, whether you have received any ſuch advice, relating to a matter ſo deeply intereſting to the inhabitants of this province, which gives you aſſurance that ſuch an eſtabliſhment has been, or is likely to be made."

The next day his Excellency was pleaſed to ſend the following anſwer.

"*Gentlemen*, It is by no means proper for me to lay before the inhabitants of any town whatſoever, in conſequence of their votes and proceedings in a town-meeting, any part of my correſpondence as Governor of the Province, or to acquaint them whether I have or have not received any advices relating to the public affairs of the government. This reaſon alone, if your addreſs to me had been in other reſpects unexceptionable, would have been ſufficient to reſtrain me from complying with your deſire.

I ſhall always be ready to gratify the inhabitants of the town of Boſton upon every regular application to me on buſineſs of public concernment to the town, as far as I ſhall have it in my power, conſiſtent with fidelity to the truſt which his Majeſty has repoſed in me.

T. Hutchinson.

Province Houſe, Oct. 30. 1772."

The foregoing anſwer being read, it was moved, that a committee be appointed to prepare a petition to the Governor, praying, that he would be pleaſed to order a ſeſſion of the general aſſembly at the time to which it now ſtands prorogued.

The petition of the freeholders and other inhabitants of the town of Boſton was accordingly preſented to the Governor the ſame day; and it *humbly ſheweth*,

"That your petitioners are ſtill greatly alarmed at the report which has been prevalent of late, viz. That ſtipends are affixed to the offices of the judges of the ſuperior court of judicature of this province, by order of the crown, for their ſupport.

Such an eſtabliſhment is contrary, not only to the plain and obvious ſenſe of the charter of this province, but alſo with ſome of the fundamental principles of the common law, to the benefit of which all Britiſh ſubjects, where-ever diſperſed throughout the Britiſh empire, are indubitably intitled.

Such a jealouſy have the ſubjects of England for their rights, liberties, and privileges, and ſo tender a regard has been ſhewn to them by his Majeſty, that notwithſtanding the proviſion made at the revolution, that the judges of the King's ſuperior courts of law there, ſhould hold their commiſſions, not at pleaſure, but during

during good behaviour; his Majeſty, among other the firſt acts of his reign, was graciouſly pleaſed to recommend it to parliament, and an act paſſed, that their commiſſions ſhould not ceaſe at the demiſe of the King [xxiii. 159. 212.]; whereby every thing poſſible in human wiſdom ſeems to have been done, to eſtabliſh an impartiality in their deciſions, not only between ſubject and ſubject, but between the crown and the ſubject.—Of how much greater importance muſt it be, to preſerve from the leaſt ſuppoſeable bias, the judges of a court, inveſted by the laws of this province, which have been approved of by his Majeſty, with powers as full and ample to all intents and purpoſes whatſoever, as the courts of King's-bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer, within his Majeſty's kingdom of England, have, or ought to have?

Your Excellency will allow your petitioners, with due ſubmiſſion, to repeat, that this eſtabliſhment appears to them pregnant with ſuch fatal evils, as that the moſt diſtant thought of its taking effect, fills their minds with dread and horror.

Theſe, Sir, are the ſentiments and apprehenſions of this metropolis; expreſſed however with due deference to the ſentiments of the province, with which your petitioners are anxiouſly ſolicitous of being made acquainted.

It is therefore their earneſt and humble requeſt, that your Excellency would be pleaſed to allow the general aſſembly to meet at the time to which it now ſtands prorogued; in order, that in that conſtitutional body, with whom it is to inquire into grievances, and redreſs them, the joint wiſdom of the province may be employed in deliberating and determining on a matter ſo important and alarming."

The Governor delivered to the committee the following reply in writing, viz.

"Gentlemen, The royal charter reſerves to the Governor full power and authority, from time to time, as he ſhall judge neceſſary, to adjourn, prorogue, and diſſolve the general aſſembly.

In the exerciſe of this power, both as to time and place, I have always been governed by a regard to his Majeſty's ſervice, and to the intereſt of the province.

It did not appear to me neceſſary for thoſe purpoſes, that the aſſembly ſhould meet at the time to which it now ſtands prorogued; and, before I was informed of your addreſs, I had determined to prorogue it to a further time.

The reaſons which you have advanced have not altered my opinion.

If, notwithſtanding, in compliance with your petition, I ſhould alter my determination, and meet the aſſembly, contrary to my own judgement, at ſuch time as you judge neceſſary, I ſhould, in effect, yield to you the exerciſe of that part of the prerogative, and ſhould be unable to juſtify my conduct to the King.

There would, moreover, be danger of encouraging the inhabitants of the other towns in the province to aſſemble, from time to time, in order to conſider of the neceſſity or expediency of a ſeſſion of the general aſſembly, or to debate and tranſact other matters which the law that authoriſes towns to aſſemble, does not make the buſineſs of a town meeting.

T. HUTCHISON.

Province Houſe, Nov. 2. 1772."

The next day the Governor prorogued the general aſſembly from Dec. 2. to Jan. 6."

ENGLAND.

At a general quarterly meeting of the Eaſt-India company, Sept. 23. [515.], the chairman acquainted the proprietors in a few words, why the court of directors had departed from the uſual mode of recommending a dividend for the Chriſtmas quarter at this court. The late act of parliament, he ſaid, authoriſed them to make a judicious alteration in this reſpect, it being more agreeable to reaſon, to declare a dividend at the end of the ſix months, when all the occurrences which could regulate their conduct would be accurately known, than in the middle of the term, when they could only be gueſſed at. But there was another cauſe which made this alteration more particularly proper at preſent, as the Company were diſtreſſed in point of caſh, occaſioned by the increaſed demands of this year by heavy bills drawn from Bengal, and the extraordinary indemnity ontea; theſe payments amounting to a ſum exceeding the uſual reſources of the Company's ſales, and therefore to be provided for by extraordinary funds. The Directors, he ſaid, had thought of various modes of raiſing this ſupply; the moſt obvious of which were, to borrow on the Company's ſeal, by iſſuing more bonds, or to extend the Company's capital. A negotiation,

he further ſaid, was entered into with adminiſtration on this head; and as this required both caution and time, the Directors could not take upon them to recommend any dividend before the court in December.

Mr Crichton, in anſwer, arraigned the Directors for three years paſt of having wittingly made improvident dividends; denounced parliamentary vengeance againſt them; accuſed them of obſtinacy, for he had for three years paſt told them what his opinion was of their mode of proceeding; obſerved, that when the agreement was made with government, the preſent chairman had uniformly oppoſed it as more than the Company could bear, and wondered what could have induced him to change his opinion; ſaid, he had proved, that the Company muſt run in debt at the rate of 500,000l. *per ann.* but that no credit was given to his calculation; repeated his aſſertion made laſt year, that the only way to raiſe the value of the ſtock was, to lower the dividend; and cloſed with moving, "That a committee, conſiſting of nine proprietors, poſſeſſed reſpectively of 500l. or upwards of the capital ſtock of the Company, be choſen by ballot to examine the grounds on which the Court of Directors have recommended the ſeveral dividends declared by this Company for the ſix laſt half-years; and likewiſe to examine the preſent ſtate of the Company's affairs; and to report the ſame, together with their opinion thereon, to the general court."

Mr Elliot ſeconded Mr Crichton's motion, but did not ſpeak to it.

The chairman replied, That Mr Crichton ſeemed rather bent on traducing the Directors than on obtaining information. He obſerved, that though he had never ſeen or heard of his calculation to prove the Company muſt run in debt 500,000l. yearly, he could eaſily demonſtrate that it muſt have been erroneous; for the ſales, *communibus annis*, amounted to 3,500,000l. and the ordinary demands upon the Company, including dividends, and the contribution to government, fell below that ſum, as indeed has been proved by the gradual diminution of the old bullion-debt to the Bank: Therefore, if theſe extraordinary bills of exchange, with the extraordinary indemnity on tea, had not fallen on the Company this year, there would have been, as in former years, a gradual reduction of debt. As a proof of what he advanced, he appealed to the accounts, which proved that the preſent demand for caſh amounted preciſely to the ſum of the bills added to that of the indemnity; from which he drew this inference, that the ordinary expences of the Company ſince the agreement with government came within 3,500,000l.; that the ſales made ample proviſion for that ſum, but could not provide for more; and therefore every ſource of expence beyond the amount of the ſales, ſhould either be prevented or provided for by extraordinary means. For this reaſon, ſaid the chairman, had I been in the direction when the ſervants abroad exceeded their powers of drawing, I would have adviſed to return their bills to Bengal under proteſt. But as the caſe now ſtands, the obvious remedy ſeems to be, borrowing a ſum ſufficient to anſwer the preſent emergency under the Company's ſeal, with the ſanction of parliament; and the taking ſufficient care that the ſervants abroad do not run into the ſame error, or take the ſame liberty for the future.

Gen. Smith deſired to know the nature of the negotiation with government, and whether the preſent diſtreſs aroſe entirely from want of caſh. Being anſwered in the affirmative as to the latter, he aſſerted, that the blame did not lie on the ſervants in Bengal, as they had received leave to draw on the Company, and had adviſed the Directors of their intention to do ſo as long ago as the year 1770. Therefore, ſaid he, the Directors, who knew two years ago that theſe bills would be drawn, ought not to have been unprovided for their payment now.

The chairman then coming into court, with the accountant, and the bill-book, clearly proved, that the ſervants in Bengal had exceeded their powers of drawing in the ſum of 870,000l. They alſo proved, that the uſual indemnity on tea had been 200,000l. *per ann.* but that this year, on account of ſome clauſes looſely worded in the act of parliament on that head, there had been an additional charge of indemnity to the amount of 234,000l. viz. firſt payment 117,000l. ſecond ditto 84,000l. and 1s. per pound guarantee to the buyers when the agreement of indemnity ceaſed, 33,000l. The proportion of all which ſums to be paid in the preſent year extra amounts preciſely to the ſum of 722,000l. or the deficiency in queſtion. This account went to the very bottom

bottom of the diſpute, and cut off all further debate on this head.

Mr Impey, after anſwering the ſeveral ſpeeches made, propoſed a previous queſtion, which was ſeconded by Mr Dorrien. Gen. Smith declared, that in whatever he had ſaid, he had no wiſh but to promote the intereſt of the proprietors; that he had never been concerned in ſpeculations; that he did not approve of the modes of relief pointed out by the Directors, but thought the proprietors themſelves might furniſh the ſum wanted; and that he for one would contribute 50,000l. for the purpoſe. Mr Dempſter cloſed the debate; confirmed the court in the conviction they had already received, that the Directors had proceeded to the beſt of their abilities, for the true intereſt of the Company, and that the preſent diſtreſs is temporary; while the moſt obvious relief for it lies in funding a ſum equal to the preſent demand, and preventing the cauſe of ſimilar demands in future. He obſerved, that though there is an extra debt of 700,000l. incurred this year, yet we have got a million Sterling more at preſent in our warehouſes, than ever we had at any one period before; and as this million cannot be forced into the ſales, which are limited, without ſacrificing the intereſt of the Company, a reſource muſt be had by borrowing; ſaying, he was happy to find that a mode more eligible had been propoſed, than that of applying to adminiſtration.

The previous queſtion being put, was carried againſt Mr Crichton's motion, all in the court againſt five. No diviſion was demanded. Mr Impey then propoſed and carried the following motion by the ſame majority: "That it be recommended to the Directors to proceed in the negotiation with adminiſtration, which they have already begun, relative to the payments to be made by the Company, and report to the proprietors, in a convenient time, their proceedings therein." Mr Crichton ſolicited and canvaſſed for nine names to call a ballot on this queſtion, but could not ſucceed.

A meeting of the Direction was held Oct. 23. for ſelecting ſix perſons to be recommended to the proprietors as ſupervifors to be ſent to India. There were 23 Directors preſent. All the gentlemen propoſed by the chairman and deputy-chairman, and alſo thoſe gentlemen among the Directors who had propoſed themſelves, were put in nomination, amounting to eleven. The choice fell on Meſſ. Wheeler, Laſcelles, and Wier, Gen. Monckton, Mr Devaynes, and Mr Cuming; all Directors at preſent, except Mr Wier and Gen. Monckton. The other five gentlemen were, Meſſ. Langlais. And. Stuart, Impey, Roberts, and Boddam.

At a general court, Oct. 28. the commiſſion was read, containing in ſubſtance a general and unlimited power to nine perſons, the ſix above mentioned, with other three called from the Governor and Council of Bengal, who were, in both military and civil capacities, to do as they liked, only being obliged to perform, from time to time, ſuch orders as ſhould be ſent them from the Directors.

Mr Ramſay objected to the commiſſion, as giving too unlimited an authority; and ſaid, five or ſix ſheets of paper, which the commiſſion contained, may be ſpared, by only the inſertion of the words, "Gentlemen, do in every reſpect as you like."

Mr Dempſter, Gen. Smith, and Mr Crichton, made objections likewiſe to the commiſſion.

A general court was held, Nov. 12. to conſider the report of the Court of Directors relative to the ſupervifors. Two matters came before the proprietors in deliberation; the naming a day for chuſing proper commiſſioners by ballot, and the approval of the commiſſion prepared by the Company's counſel. After ſome debate, which ſhould firſt be taken into conſideration, it was agreed that the legality of the commiſſion ſhould be firſt determined, and that the appointment of the men ſhould follow. After a debate of near four hours, it was agreed, without a diviſion, that the court ſhould be adjourned (for the purpoſe of filling up the blanks) till Nov. 17. the ballot to be taken on the 19th. The buſineſs was conducted with much regularity and good humour; and the proprietors in general ſeemed convinced of the neceſſity of carrying the commiſſion into immediate execution, as the moſt effectual, indeed the ſole means, of remedying the evils crept into the adminiſtration of the ſettlements abroad, and of removing the difficulties under which the Company labours at home.

At this meeting the commiſſion underwent a moſt ſevere handling by Gov. Johnſtone, Mr Walpole, and Mr Crichton.—Gov. Johnſton entered very minutely into

all the particulars of its illegalities and errors. He called it the moſt arbitrary unconſtitutional piece of paper ever formed; pointed out the dilemmas the ſupervifors muſt be reduced to from the wording it, as out of Bengal they could have no collective authority; ſhewed the drift of the whole plainly to lie in giving ultimate power to the Directors at home; and called upon them, in a voice of truth not to be reſiſted, as the principal cauſes of all the miſcarriages in India. Here the Governor was not content with a mere *ipſe dixit*, but ſhewed, to the ſatisfaction of the whole court, how this was effected. He told them of the great expences of their unneceſſary forts and garriſons abroad; ſhewed how they may likewiſe make a ſaving of 36,000 l. *per ann.* in the bare article of their packet-boats; ſaid it was ſhameful that a jaghire of ſo much annual money ſhould not be for a while ſuſpended, in this great dearth of the Company's cath, to ſupport their ſtock-credit; that when the Directors paid ſo little attention to the ſavings of the Company, no body would lend them money. — Mr Walpole too was very merry with the Preſident, Second in Council, and Commander in Chief's being linked in command with the ſix *Directors*-Supervifors to be ſent out from here; particularly when the words of the commiſſion are "repoſing in them for their candour, impartiality, and abilities." Now, ſays he, if you are already ſatisfied of their *candour*, *impartiality*, and *abilities*, why ſend out ſupervifors from here? If you are not, why treſpaſs on truth, by ſaying you are?

At a general court, Nov. 17. the chairman acquainted the proprietors, that the blanks in the commiſſion, according to their recommendation, had been filled up. Then the commiſſion was read. — Objections were made to it by Mr Fitzgerald and Mr Dodwell. — Mr Crichton took notice of the dilemmas the ſix Supervifors ſent hence would be under, when arrived in Bengal, and ſitting in council with the Preſident, Second in Council, and Commander in Chief, in caſe the former ſhould have occaſion to arraign the conduct of the latter. — Mr Bird read a long ſpeech in favour of the commiſſion, which, in ſome reſpect, was meant as an anſwer to a ſpeech of Gov. Johnſtone the former court-day; and wherein he inveighed againſt its oppoſers, as perſons who probably wanted to ſcreen ſome of their friends in India from reprehenſion. — Counſellor Adair endeavoured likewiſe to defend the commiſſion in its preſent form; and attempted to anſwer Mr Crichton's ſeveral objections, by ſaying, that though the offices of the Preſident, Second in Council, and Commander in Chief, were perpetual by charter, yet the perſons who filled them were liable to be removed, and could be done ſo by delegation. — Gov. Johnſtone ſpoke next, and ſtated all his objections to the commiſſion regularly; ſome of which ſhewed ſuch knowledge even in the legal parts of it, that they underwent an immediate alteration from behind the bar in conſequence. After which he ſaid, that he ſhould not lie under the imputation of a man who cavilled without propoſing any ſubſtitute: — he produced a commiſſion of his own conſtructing, which he read from his place, and which, though perhaps inaccurate in reſpect to all its forms (as he himſelf ſuppoſed), yet contained ſome very good matter for forming a commiſſion from. After this he animadverted on that part of Mr Bird's ſpeech which pointed at him, and defended himſelf ſtep by ſtep, much to the ſatisfaction as well as the entertainment of the court. —— At laſt Mr Adair made the following motion: "That this court doth approve of the draught of the ſuperintending commiſſion now read and amended." Which was carried in the affirmative.

At a general court, Nov. 24. a motion was made by Mr Adair, "That this court doth diſapprove of the Directors recommendation." The word *diſapprove* was afterwards, in tenderneſs to the gentlemen recommended, changed into *approve*. After long debates the court adjourned; and the matter was not finiſhed when the parliament appointed a ſecret committee to inquire into the ſtate of the Eaſt-India company. [633.]

There were other matters of importance before the Eaſt-India courts. —— At a general court, Oct. 28. a letter received by the Direction from Lord North was read, importing, "That government could not agree to lend them the loan they requeſted on their terms, as not thinking it for the intereſt of the Company to accumulate their debts, which would be 1,200,000 l. by next Auguſt; but that they were willing to do the Company every ſervice in their power; and deſired to have, as ſoon as convenient,

convenient, ſuch papers as were neceſſary to inform them of the ſtate of the Company."

A general court was held Nov. 20. for inquiring into the general ſtate of the Company's affairs, previous to the meeting of parliament. The chairman aſked the court, where they would begin their inquiry. The court referred to the minutes of the 15th of July laſt, with all the papers, negotiations, &c. from that time, which were accordingly read by the clerk in ſucceſſion. The purport of theſe papers were, "That on the 8th day of July laſt, the Directors had been alarmed by an account from their treaſurer of the great deficiency in their caſh, on account of the indemnities on teas, the draughts from Bengal, &c.; that in conſequence of this, they applied to the treaſury for a loan, which was refuſed; that they afterwards applied to the Bank; but after many treaties, the anſwer of the Bank was, That they would lend them 300,000l. upon the following ſecurities; 100,000l. on the ſeal of the Company, 100,000l. upon the uſual ſecurity, (bills at a long date), and 100,000l. more upon the private ſecurity of the committee for money-matters. The two firſt parts of this propoſal were accepted, the other refuſed. In ſhort, the whole of the matter, taken in one point of view, was this, That the Company owed 1,200,000l. in all, which they wanted to put into a train of payment, previous to their being able to meet parliament upon ſome certain grounds."

The chairman ſaid, "that the Directors had conſidered and reconſidered this matter, and the majority were of opinion, that the moſt effectual way, in their preſent circumſtances, to do this, would be, to lower the dividend to ſix per cent.; however, he obſerved, it was only an object of inquiry, they had come to no reſolution.

The deputy-chairman was of opinion ſome other method may be adopted than taking down the dividend ſo low. Mr Dempſter was of the ſame opinion.

Gov. Johnſtone roſe next, and entered minutely and ſpiritedly into obſervations on the whole of the minutes that had been read. He cenſured as a proprietor, yet with reſpect to direction, the inattention (to call it by no other name) of the Directors accepting the heavy bills drawn on them from Bengal, &c.; and after having accepted them, not acquainting the general court, held immediately after, of their diſtreſs; and in conſequence not lowering the dividend, which in itſelf would be a ſaving to the Company of 600,000l.; that what made this neglect ſtill more unaccountable was, after one Director (meaning Mr Manſhip) had oppoſed himſelf to the erroneous deſcription of the flouriſhing ſtate of the Company's affairs, and propheſied the dilemma they muſt be reduced to; that there might have been a ſaving likewiſe made in their article of ſhipping, which was not in time attended to. He obſerved, they might, 'tis true, plead cuſtom, for the want of inveſtigation into theſe matters; but how gentlemen could reconcile matters of ſuch vaſt importance, at ſuch a critical ſituation, to their conſciences, as men intruſted with the affairs of a great company, was to him aſtoniſhing.

Several other of the Directors ſpoke to this ſubject, ſeemingly without reſerve, as they had moſt of them different opinions. After a debate of near four hours, it was univerſally ſettled, that as parliament was to meet on the Thurſday after, it would be but paying them a proper reſpect, as well as attending to the true intereſts of the Company, to appoint a day for the further determination of this queſtion, previous to that time. The Wedneſday following was appointed.

The general court met accordingly Nov. 25. Mr Rhombold opened the debate, going at large into the great cauſe of the evil complained of, the bills drawn on the Company from Bengal, and explained the true ſtate of that affair. He ſaid, it was principally owing to the order of the Court of Directors, who wrote them word they were apprehenſive of a war with France, and in that caſe Bengal might be attacked; that when they received this information, they had but 19,000l. in their treaſury; and that to put their fortifications in order, to exerciſe their military, &c. &c. they were under the neceſſity of drawing on the Company for ſo large a ſum; that previous to this, however, they took every ſtep not to diſtreſs them by ſo large a draught, by giving Direction a a year's notice, payable in a year's time, which, together with a ſix months voyage incluſive, made in all thirty months; that likewiſe to convenience direction, and to enable them to pay ſo large a ſum, they had been induſtrious

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to procure a full freight for all the ſhips as they returned home, and, in conſequence of that, ſent them more goods from India in two years, by 300,000 l. than had been known in any equal ſpace of time before. He finally obſerved, as a farther defence for himſelf (being then of the council of Bengal) and the reſt of his brother-officers, that they were juſtified in thinking the Company were much in caſh, not only from the quantity of goods ſhipped for Europe, but they being at that time ignorant of the large annual ſum the Company paid to government, as well as the loſs ſuſtained by the indemnity on teas; and that if the Directors had wrote them word on the firſt notice of theſe draughts, they would have fallen on other methods to relieve themſelves.

General Smith ſupported and confirmed theſe arguments.

The chairman and deputy-chairman endeavoured to defend the conduct of Direction, and in turn recriminated. They ſaid, That the expences incurred by fortifications, and putting the military in a ſtate of defence, were exceſſive; that the articles were never properly minuted, but lumped in ſuch a manner that they could not properly diſtinguiſh them; and, in ſhort, that other methods might have been made uſe of than drawing for ſo large a ſum on Direction.

Mr Rhombold made a ſhort reply to this, by aſking them, if they thought the draughts burdenſome to the affairs of the Company, why did they accept them, having a year's notice beforehand? To this no reply was made.

Mr Crichton remarked, that this was no time for looking back to the cauſes which produced the grievances, but to remedy, if poſſible, the grievances themſelves; and, in order to do this, he was of opinion, there ſhould be no dividend for the next ſix months, which would produce a very conſiderable ſum of money, and then to ſolicit government for a remittal of the enormous ſums annually paid them; that theſe ſavings would, in a little time, recover the credit of the Company, and put it upon its uſual reſpectable footing.

Gov. Johnſtone was partly of the ſame opinion, but only required a remittal of one hundred thouſand a-year from government, that making it the original ſum which the Directors firſt agreed to pay them; but, for what reaſons he could not define, it was afterwards given up. He then remarked, with his uſual accuracy, on the ſtate of Bengal: He ſaid he had no doubt but the money drawn on the Company by the ſervants there, was neceſſary at the time; but the previous circumſtances which made it neceſſary, he had his doubts about; that the Morattoes were always held out to us as a formidable people, whenever the ſervants abroad wanted to put their military in a ſtate of defence; and that more money was often expended, on theſe occaſions, by way of precaution, than common prudence ſhould dictate. This part of his argument he no leſs humorouſly than forcibly illuſtrated, by ſuppoſing a miſer making unneceſſary defences for fear of being robbed; ſuch as, putting double iron bars to his windows, chimnies, doors, &c. when often ſuch expences were more than the diſtant chance of being attacked (on a calculation) amounted to; and this was exactly the caſe at Bengal; for conſidering the ſmall quantity of caſh then in hands, he ſaid it was better to permit them to take it, than charge the Company with ſuch enormous ſums of money for defending it.

Mr Dempſter was for qualifying matters, by inſcribing infallibity to no man, and conſequently laid no blame any where, as where-ever the error might ariſe, he was ſure it did not proceed intentionally; and ſupported his opinion by ſaying, in reſpect to himſelf, there were many inadvertencies he had to accuſe himſelf of as a Director, which he would avoid had he the ſame courſe to go over again. He oppoſed entirely the ſuſpenſion of dividend; and even thought that reducing it to 6 l. per cent. would be unneceſſary, as many other expedients might be made uſe of: however, this was a point he would not abſolutely inſiſt on till he was better informed.

Adjourned.

At a general court Dec. 1. the chairman informed the court, that the ſecret committee of the Houſe of Commons were then ſitting in the Eaſt-India houſe, for the benefit of receiving ſuch information from the Direction as would not interfere in their own buſineſs. — Mr Mackworth entered into the whole of the Company's affairs; aſſerted they were by no means ſo deplorable as the proprietors in general had painted them; arraigned warmly their deſpondence, in

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throwing themſelves on parliament; and concluded (as matters were in the train they were then in) with the following motion: "That a committee of twenty-five proprietors ſhould be choſen, to inſpect into all the papers, records, letters, &c. relative to the Company, to meet for the diſpatch of buſineſs, four days after nomination, to be aſſiſted by the proper officers of the houſe, to adjourn from time to time, and report their proceedings and informations to the committee appointed by parliament." Which carried in the affirmative, only two voices diſſenting. The committee was accordingly named. Another committee was named, on a motion by Gov. Johnſtone, for drawing up a petition to parliament.

The royal aſſent has been given to the following bills:

To theſe, by the King, Dec. 4. viz.

An act for allowing the importation of wheat, wheat-flour, rye, rye-meal, barley, barley-meal, oats, oat-meal, peaſe, beans, tares, callivancies, and all other ſorts of pulſe, from any part of Europe or Africa, into this kingdom, for a limited time, free of duty. —— By this act, the articles ſpecified in the title may be imported into G. Britain by any perſon and in any veſſel whatſoever till Jan. 1. 1774, free of duty; and may alſo, under former regulations, be carried coaſtwiſe.

An act for allowing the importation of wheat, wheat-flour, Indian corn, Indian meal, biſcuit, peaſe, beans, tares, callivancies, and all other ſorts of pulſe, from his Majeſty's colonies in America, into this kingdom, for a limited time, free of duty. —— By this act, the articles ſpecified in the title may be imported into G. Britain by any of his Majeſty's ſubjects, in any veſſel navigated according to law, from Dec. 1. 1772 till Jan. 1. 1774, free of duty, provided due entry be made as formerly; and may likewiſe, under former regulations be carried coaſtwiſe.

To theſe, by commiſſion, Dec. 14. viz.

An act to prohibit the exportation of corn, grain, peaſe, beans, meal, malt, flour, bread, biſcuit, and ſtarch; and alſo the extraction of low wines and ſpirits from wheat and wheat-flour, for a limited time. —— From and after the paſſing of this act, till Jan. 1. 1774, unleſs the time be ſhortened by any other act this ſeſſion, no corn, &c. ſhall be exported from G. Britain or Ireland, or laid on board any veſſel for tranſportation, on pain of forfeiting all ſuch commodities ſo exported or laid on board, beſides 20s. for every buſhel of ſuch corn, &c. and 12d. for every pound-weight of ſuch bread, &c. and alſo the veſſels with all their tackle, &c. and three months impriſonment to the maſter or mariners knowingly aſſiſting in ſuch exportation or laying on board. There are exceptions with regard to ſhips, garriſons, the iſlands of Man, Jerſey, &c. and the Eaſt-India company. The act does not extend to prohibit the exportation of rice. The extracting or diſtilling of low wines or ſpirits from wheat or wheat-flour, or any material mixed with wheat or wheat-flour, or the uſing or mixing any wheat or wheat-flour in order to ſuch extraction or diſtillation, is prohibited, on pain of forfeiting 200l. for each offence, beſides forfeiture of all the goods and utenſils ſo employed. If any wheat, &c. be found in any ſtillhouſe, &c. in which any low wines or ſpirits ſhall be made, or ſhall have been made ſince Oct. 1. 1772, all ſuch wheat, &c. ſhall be forfeited, and the owner of the ſtillhouſe, &c. ſhall forfeit 100l. for every offence.

An act to continue for a further time, an act 8° Geo. III. "to continue and amend an act 5° Geo. III.—for importation of ſalted beef, pork, bacon, and butter, from Ireland, for a limited time;"—and for allowing the importation of ſalted beef, pork, bacon, and butter, from the Britiſh dominions in America, for a limited time [107.], till March 1. 1774.

An act to continue for a further time, [till March 25. 1776], *an act 7° Geo. III. "to diſcontinue, for a limited time, the duties payable upon the importation of tallow, hogs lard, and greaſe;" and to permit the importation of ſalted beef, pork, bacon, hams, and cheeſe, into his kingdom, from any part of Europe, for a limited time,* [till Jan. 1. 1774], *free of duty.*

To theſe, by the King, Dec. 22. viz.

An act for continuing, and granting to his Majeſty, certain duties upon malt, mum, cyder, and perry, for the ſervice of the year 1773.

An act for granting an aid to his Majeſty, by a land tax [3s. in the pound], *to be raiſed in Great Britain, for the ſervice of the year* 1773.

And to three private [naturalization] bills. —— And

To theſe, by commiſſion, Dec. 24. viz.

An act for puniſhing mutiny and deſertion, and for the better payment of the army and their quarters.

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An act for the regulation of his Majeſty's marine forces while on ſhore.

An act for allowing the free importation of rice into this kingdom, from any of his Majeſty's colonies in America, for a limited time, [from the paſſing of the act till May 1. 1780.]; *and for encouraging the making of ſtarch from rice.* —— Rice ſo imported, if again exported, ſhall be ſubject to a ſubſidy of poundage of ſixpence in the pound, as rated in the book of rates. — William Prince, to whom a patent was granted in 1768 to the excluſive right of making ſtarch from rice for fourteen years, having waved all benefit from his patent, this act makes it lawful for any perſon whatſoever to make ſtarch from rice.

An act to reſtrain the Eaſt-India company, for a limited time, from making any appointment of commiſſioners for ſuperintending and regulating the company's affairs at their preſidencies in the Eaſt Indies.

A bill for completing the navigation of the river Trent, from Newark, to the Crankleys, Nottinghamſhire.

A private bill, for dividing and incloſing the common fields of Laxton, Northamptonſhire.

IRELAND.

[Many poſtponed articles are now inſerted.]

A motion was made in the Houſe of Commons, Feb. 10. by Sir Edward Newenham, That leave be given to bring in heads of a bill to preſerve the independency of parliaments, by limiting the number of placemen to ſit in the Houſe of Commons. — "It is not intended by this bill," ſaid he, "that no placemen are to ſit in this houſe; it is only to limit them. The Vice-Treaſurer, the Attorney and Solicitor Generals, the officers of the Army and Navy, may ſit there; but ſurely deputy-collectors, petty licenſers, and under-clerks, ought not to be permitted to ſit in the parliament-houſe, by thoſe members who would not ſit in their company in their reſpective offices." — The motion was agreed to; and Sir Edward and Mr Stuart were appointed to bring it in.

In a committee of the whole houſe, March 6. (Sir Edward Newenham in the chair), the aforementioned bill was read. A ſhort debate enſuing, Mr Langriſh moved, That the further conſideration of the bill ſhould be adjourned to the 1ſt of Auguſt next; which was carried without a diviſion. — Sir Edward obſerved, that he was more convinced than ever, that it was abſolutely neceſſary to purge the Houſe of thoſe venal voters.

Mr Power (purſuant to leave given) brought in a bill, March 9. for improving his Majeſty's revenue, and preventing frauds therein. The bill was read, ordered to be printed, and committed for the Friday following. On reading the bill, it appeared, that its duration was to be for two years, *and to the end of the then next ſeſſion of parliament.* Mr Barry Barry objected to ſuch a form of limitation, as very indeterminate; and Mr Flood declared, he ſhould ſtrongly oppoſe it on Friday, as of a moſt dangerous tendency. "For," ſaid he, "if revenue-bills paſs in ſuch a manner, they will be deſtructive, not only of the authority, but even of the very exiſtence of parliaments. They will aſcertain that revenue for two years certain, and from thence to *the end of the then next ſeſſion of parliament;* and when that *next ſeſſion* may be, will then depend, not on the conſtitution, but on the mere will of adminiſtration. Government hath ſufficiently ſhewn, that were it not for raiſing money, they would be very remiſs in calling parliaments; and if that main cauſe was once rendered unneceſſary, there would be very little hopes of their being called for the redreſs of grievances." For theſe reaſons, he declared he would on Friday move to reject that clauſe; and if the clauſe was not rejected, he would then move to reject the whole bill, be the conſequence what it may. — Sir Lucius O'Brien ſpoke to the ſame purpoſe; and Mr Burgh ſaid, he wondered any man would bring in a bill with ſuch a clauſe, after (on a former occaſion) the Houſe had declared its abhorrence of the like. Therefore, if hereafter any member ſhould bring any ſuch clauſe into the Houſe, tacked to any bill whatſoever, he would himſelf move for *the expulſion* of ſuch member.

On the 29th of May the Houſes of Lords and Commons waited on the Lord Lieutenant with their reſpective addreſſes. — From which, and from his Excellency's anſwers, we give extracts, viz.

Lords.] We —— do moſt heartily congratulate your Excellency upon the approaching concluſion of the preſent ſeſſion of parliament; a ſeſſion diſtinguiſhed by many uſeful and excellent laws, which carry with them the ſtrongeſt marks

marks of your Excellency's ſincere endeavours to co-operate with parliament for the welfare and proſperity of this kingdom. — We beg leave to return your Excellency our ſincere thanks, for the aſſiſtance which your Excellency hath afforded us, in promoting many great and national objects; by which your Excellency hath made it incumbent upon us to expreſs our entire ſatisfaction in your Excellency's juſt and prudent adminiſtration.

Anſwer.] I am very happy that I have not, in your opinion, been wanting in my endeavours to promote the welfare and proſperity of this kingdom; and it is a particular pleaſure to me to find, that my adminiſtration here hath been acceptable to you.

Commons.] We —— think ourſelves indiſpenſably obliged, before an end be put to this ſeſſion, to declare our entire ſatisfaction in your Excellency's juſt and prudent adminiſtration. — We are truly ſenſible of his Majeſty's paternal regard for the welfare of this kingdom, in continuing your Excellency ſo long reſident amongſt us.

Anſ.] The declaration which you have made, of your entire ſatisfaction in my government, and reſidence among you, is very acceptable to me.

The Lord Lieutenant made a ſpeech to both Houſes, June 2. and then the parliament was prorogued. — We give the ſpeech entire, viz.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

I Cannot put an end to this ſeſſion of parliament, without returning you my particular thanks for your long and cloſe attention to the public buſineſs.

I congratulate you on the many excellent laws which have received the royal aſſent this ſeſſion. The act for preventing the delays of juſtice, by reaſon of privilege of parliament, muſt be received as a very ſtrong mark of your diſintereſted regard for the rights and welfare of your fellow-ſubjects. The act to prevent frauds committed by bankrupts, and that for rendering ſecurities by mortgage more effectual, cannot fail to produce the moſt ſalutary effects, by reſtoring that credit and confidence amongſt the people, which have been much wanted, and are eſſentially neceſſary, in this commercial country; and it was with particular ſatisfaction that his Majeſty gave his royal conſent to theſe laws, which do honour to your deliberations, and are ſo wiſely calculated for the public good.

Gentlemen of the Houſe of Commons,

I thank you, in his Majeſty's name, for the ſupplies which you granted at the beginning of this ſeſſion: they ſhall be faithfully applied to the ſupport of his Majeſty's eſtabliſhments, and to the advancement of the public ſervice. But although I have expectations that the act for amending and explaining a clauſe in the act of tonnage and poundage will be productive of ſome addition to his Majeſty's revenue, I think it my duty to inform you, that the arrears, which had been incurred upon his Majeſty's eſtabliſhments civil and military, before the time of your meeting, made it neceſſary to borrow one hundred thouſand pounds immediately after the act was paſſed which gave authority for that purpoſe; and that ſum not proving ſufficient, I have, ſome time ſince, been obliged to order the further ſum of one hundred thouſand pounds to be raiſed, being the remainder of the credit intruſted to me by that act.

So early a demand for the whole loan, gives me reaſon to apprehend, that unleſs there ſhould be a conſiderable increaſe in his Majeſty's revenue, a ſtill greater arrear will accrue before the uſual time of your meeting in another ſeſſion.

I do therefore moſt earneſtly recommend it to you, to take into your ſerious conſideration, between this and the next ſeſſion of parliament, what will be the beſt method of making proviſion for ſuch deficiencies as ariſe upon the preſent duties, ſo as to guard againſt any farther increaſe of the national debt.

The additional duties given for the ſupport of government, in aid of his Majeſty's hereditary revenue, are nearly the ſame which were granted in the year 1727, at the late King's acceſſion. Had they been ſolely applied to that purpoſe, they would have been fully ſufficient, and no debt or arrear would have been contracted or incurred; but the large expence occaſioned by the many premiums now payable under different heads, muſt neceſſarily continue to increaſe both; it will therefore be true policy, and worthy of your wiſdom, to give particular attention to this object, and, by prudent regulations, to form and eſtabliſh ſuch a ſyſtem as will beſt obviate any further inconvenience, and moſt effectually promote

promote every great national purpoſe.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleaſure to obſerve, that the tumults and outrages of the lower ranks of people, which unhappily diſturbed ſome of the northern counties in this kingdom, have now ſubſided. I flatter myſelf that theſe deluded perſons are fully convinced of the atrociouſneſs of their attempts, and of the impoſſibility of effecting any of the purpoſes intended by them. —— I would however recommend it to ſuch gentlemen, whoſe weight and influence lie particularly in thoſe parts, to have a watchful eye over their behaviour, and to exert themſelves, with the other civil magiſtrates, in enforcing a due obedience to the laws; and I doubt not, that, by their authority on one hand, and by their juſtice and moderation on the other, a thorough reformation will be effected, and the diſpoſitions of the people reclaimed to peace and good order.

It gives me great concern to ſee the aſſiſtance of the military power ſo frequently called; for nothing can be more worthy of your ſerious reflection, than to render that reſource unneceſſary, by a judicious improvement of your police, and providing for the due execution of the laws.

His Majeſty gave it in expreſs command to me, to make your intereſts and proſperity the great objects of my adminiſtration; and my own inclinations incited me to a ſtrict and zealous performance of that duty. I have, upon every occaſion, endeavoured, to the utmoſt of my power, to promote the public ſervice; and I feel the moſt perfect ſatisfaction in now repeating to you my acknowledgements for the very honourable manner in which, after a reſidence of near five years amongſt you, you have declared your entire approbation of my conduct. Be aſſured, that I ſhall always entertain the moſt ardent wiſhes for your welfare; and ſhall make a faithful repreſentation to his Majeſty, of your loyalty and attachment to his Royal perſon and government.

" *Dublin Caſtle, Nov.* 30. The Earl of Harcourt [583.], who imbarked at Holyhead on Saturday night laſt, arrived ſafe in this port very early this morning, and immediately upon his landing proceeded to the Caſtle; and the Council having been ſummoned to meet at two o'clock, his Lordſhip was introduced in form to Lord Townſhend, who received him ſitting, under the canopy of ſtate, in the preſence-chamber; from whence a proceſſion was made to the council-chamber; where his Lordſhip's commiſſion was read, and the oaths adminiſtered to him; after which, his Lordſhip having received the ſword from Lord Townſhend, the great guns in his Majeſty's park the Phœnix were fired, and anſwered by the regiments on duty, which were drawn up in the royal ſquare at the barracks. His Excellency then repaired to the preſence-chamber, where he received the compliments of the nobility and other perſons of diſtinction, upon his ſafe arrival to take upon him the government of this kingdom." *Lond. gaz.*

" *Dublin Caſtle, Dec.* 8. This morning Lord Viſcount Townſhend, late Lord Lieutenant of this kingdom, imbarked on board his Majeſty's yacht the Dorſet, on his return to England. His Excellency the Earl Harcourt and Lord Townſhend went together from the Caſtle in a chariot drawn by ſix horſes, and preceded by a leading coach and ſix, in which were the officers of ſtate, to the Pidgeon-houſe, where Lord Townſhend imbarked on board the Revenue barge for the yacht, which lay in the bay. They were eſcorted by a ſquadron of horſe, and attended by ſeveral of the nobility and gentry in their carriages, followed by a great concourſe of people, to the water-ſide. The ſtreets were lined by the regiments of infantry upon Dublin duty. The proceſſion was grand, and conducted with the utmoſt propriety and order; and in his paſſage through the ſtreets, Lord Townſhend received every demonſtration of reſpect from the people, who teſtified their regard for him by their repeated acclamations, and wiſhes for his welfare and proſperity, and ſafe return to England. — Several barges, filled with gentlemen of diſtinction, attended Lord Townſhed from the Pidgeon-houſe to the yacht; which immediately ſet ſail with a fair wind for Parkgate. *Lond. gaz.* —— Lord Townſhend arrived at London Dec. 13. and next day waited on the King at St James's, and kiſſed his Majeſty's hand on being appointed Maſter-General of the Ordnance. [583.]

On the 10th of November the following *humble addreſs of the Roman Catholics of*

of Ireland was preſented to Lord Townſhend.

"May it pleaſe your Excellency,

WE his Majeſty's moſt dutiful and faithful ſubjects, the Roman Catholics of his kingdom of Ireland, do with the greateſt reſpect approach your Excellency, the illuſtrious repreſentative of the beſt of Kings, with our ſincereſt acknowledgements of the lenity extended to us during your Excellency's adminiſtration; and we conſider it a duty incumbent on us, to make you this tender of our grateful thanks before your departure from this kingdom.

We moſt earneſtly beſeech your Excellency, on your return to the royal preſence, to repreſent us to his Majeſty as (what in truth we are from principle) dutiful and faithful ſubjects; and we earneſtly requeſt you will aſſure his Majeſty of our moſt firm and ſteady reſolutions to perſevere in the ſame loyal diſpoſition, and that every act of ours ſhall always tend to the tranquillity of this kingdom, and the ſupport of his Majeſty's perſon and government.

We humbly hope, my Lord, that our conduct for near a century paſt, may be admitted as a proof of the ſincerity of our preſent declarations, and obtain for us ſome relaxation of thoſe reſtraints which have hitherto diſabled us from co-operating with the reſt of our fellow-ſubjects, in the improvement of this our common country.

That eminent honours may ever grace your Excellency's diſtinguiſhed merit, is the ardent wiſh of,

May it pleaſe your Excellency,

Your moſt dutiful and devoted ſervants,

Signed by order,

Dubl. gaz. OWEN HOGAN, Agent.

"*London, Dec.* 19. Lord Townſhend's adminiſtration, it is univerſally agreed, has done more real ſervice to Ireland than any Viceroy's ſince the connection of the two kingdoms; as he has broke a moſt dangerous ariſtocracy, which ruled the Iriſh with a rod of iron for many years, and proſcribed every individual of the country who would not ſtoop to be the wretched dependent of a few particular families."

"*London, Nov.* 16. The following is an authentic liſt of the new penſions which have been placed upon the eſtabliſhment of Ireland within theſe few days.

To the Lord Chancellor per annum	L. 1000
Sir George Maccartney -	1500
Henry Meredith - - -	500
Mrs Reynolds - - -	200
Anne Moore - - -	100
Anne Pringle (mother of Maj. Pringle, aid-de-camp to Lord Townſhend)	100
Margaret, Hannah, and Jane Gordons, (daughters of Mr Gordon, ſurveyor general) - -	150
Three Miſs Walkers - -	90
Major Mercer - - -	150
Capt. Bolton - - -	50
Capt. Ranken - -	100
Lady Draper, wife of Sir Wm Draper - - -	300
Mrs Morell - - -	36
Mr Butler (of the ſecretary's office)	100
Rt Hon. Mr Beresford, brother to the Earl of Tyrone, appointed Taſter of Wines, with an annual ſalary, for the life of Mr Beresford and his four ſons, of -	1000
Col. Clements, appointed Paymaſter to the troops abroad, with an annual ſalary of - -	700
[xxix. 521.] Total	L. 6076

SCOTLAND.

There have lately been erected on the north-weſt part of Lady iſle, two ſtone beacons for directing ſhips into the inſide of that iſland, oppoſite to the main land, where they may ride with ſafety, in good anchor-ground, and be ſheltered from the violence of the weſt and north-weſt winds.—The beſt anchor-ground is when theſe two beacons are brought under one, where there are five fathoms water within a cable-length of the ſhore, and clean ground; which grows gradually deeper for half a mile to the ſouth-eaſt, where are fourteen fathoms water; and then it grows gradually ſhallower towards the Bar of Air.—There is a ridge of rocks between Lady iſle and the Troon point, (about three quarters of a mile eaſt from the largeſt beacon), which is not broad, and runs near ſouth and north. On this ridge there are at low water three and one half fathoms; and veſſels coming too near it are only in hazard of damaging their cables.—About one eighth to one quarter of a mile N. N. E. from the largeſt beacon, there is a rock called *the half-tide rock*, which is covered at half-flood, and there is a channel betwixt it and the iſland four feet deep at low water, where ſmall craft may go through, but large veſſels muſt keep on the outſide of it.——The Lady iſle is

a ſmall low iſland, of an oval figure, and lies in the frith of Clyde, about fifteen miles E. S. E. from Holy iſle, in the mouth of Lamlaſh; nine miles ſouth from Saltcoats, five miles S. W. half S. from Irvine, two miles W. from Troon point, five miles N. N. W. from Air, and twenty-four miles N. E. by E. from Iſlay. — The above bearings are aſcertained by the compaſs, without allowing any variation.

On the 7th of December came on before the court of exchequer, Edinburgh, a trial, in which John Ogilvie, commander of the Royal George yacht, in the ſervice of the board of exciſe, was plaintiff, and James Turing, merchant in Middleburg, defendant. The queſtion in diſpute was the legality of a ſeizure of ſpirits, tea, and coffee, the cargo of the cutter Thomas and Mary of Fluſhing, Edward Farminger maſter, valued at near 1300l. The cutter carried fifteen hands, mounted four great guns and eight ſwivels, and had blunderbuſſes and muſkets in proportion. This ſeizure was made, off Montroſe, on the 10th of June laſt, after an engagement of about an hour's continuance, in which the mate and two ſailors belonging to the cutter were killed, and two wounded. After a pretty long hearing, a verdict was given for the plaintiff. The maſter and three of the crew were committed to Edinburgh priſon after the trial, by warrant of the Admiral, as guilty of piracy, in reſiſting, and forcibly oppoſing with fire-arms, a veſſel in the King's ſervice; but were diſcharged on the 9th, on finding bail to ſtand trial, and anſwer to any action that may be brought againſt them in ſix months.

A number of people of both ſexes aſſembled at Perth, Dec. 30. betwixt nine and ten at night, went on board a ſloop lying at the new ſhore, taking in barley, and carried off about forty bolls of it. The magiſtrates finding it impoſſible to diſperſe the mob, called for the aſſiſtance of the military; on whoſe appearance the people quietly diſperſed. But, about three o'clock next morning, aſſembling again, they broke into the houſe of John Scot baker, and carried off meal, flour, and bread, to a conſiderable value. Two of the delinquents were taken, and committed to priſon. The ſame night a number of people took a large quantity of victual from a veſſel at the quay of Newburgh, which they depoſited in lots, to be ſold for home-conſumption. On this the magiſtrates of Perth publiſhed an advertiſement, ſetting forth the ſcarcity of meal in that town, and deſiring the gentlemen and farmers in the country to ſend in what meal they could ſpare, to be ſold in the public market, with a promiſe of protection and encouragement.

P. S. "*Perth, Jan.* 2. Laſt night our Wedneſday's mob broke out again in order to deliver from priſon two of their fellows, who had been incarcerated in the tolbooth; upon which the magiſtrates immediately aſſembled, and got a party of the military planted at the ſtair of the priſon, to oppoſe them. After the riot-act was read, the ſoldiers ſallied out with their guns and bayonets twice or thrice, and drove the mob like ſheep from their ſtation: but the mob ſtill returning, armed with cudgels, and pelting the ſoldiers with ſtones, they refuſed to ſtand longer, unleſs they were allowed to fire in their own defence. On which the Provoſt allowed them to depart, and delivered the priſoners to the mob; who went off in great triumph, and ſtoned the military, who were going peaceably to their quarters. The mob then called at Burt's the vintner, and ſearched for John Donaldſon farmer at Elcho, the object of their vengeance, becauſe he deals in victual. Not finding him there, and it being about nine or ten at night, they proceeded to his farm, about three miles from Perth, hallooing all the way, and increaſed to a great company. — Mr Donaldſon left his houſe; and ten ſoldiers of a guard he had, gave place to the mob, who broke down and deſtroyed every thing in the houſe, and carried off the keys of his lofts and granaries to the ſheriff ſubſtitute of Perth. They returned about four in the morning, in the ſame wild exultation they went out in, and delivered the keys, with orders to the ſheriff to get the victual brought into Perth, and ground for the market. Mr Donaldſon prevented the ſheriff, and ſent in the victual. The apparent cauſe of all this was, the total want of meal in the market of Perth for eight or ten days, and the neglect of the police to provide againſt this; beſide a ſcarcity of that ſort of proviſion for a long time paſt, ſo that the poor were hard put to it for ſubſiſtence. But they ought to have ſignified their wants to the magiſtrates, and been refuſed, before they attempted to do juſtice to themſelves, and miſchief to others."

To

To the author of the SCOTS MAGAZINE.

SIR, *Aug.* 28. 1772.

[This letter is on a ſubject which we had ſome time ago [xxxii. 201.] reſolved to conclude; and is, beſides, of ſuch a length that we could not inſert it entire: we however gave extracts from it on our September cover; which we promiſed, if the author approved, to inſert in the body of the Magazine before the preſent volume ſhould be finiſhed. — PHILELEUTHERUS has ſignified his acquieſcence, by a letter, in which he "confeſſes the abſtract propoſed to be as good as could be framed according to its ſize." The extracts therefore are here inſerted.]

"I have read PHILALETHES's letter [187.]. — If I am rightly informed, the record runs thus. "*Seſſ.* 10. Some overtures containing queſtions to be put to all probationers and intrants to the holy miniſtry before they be licenſed to preach the goſpel, queſtions to be put to miniſters at their ordination, and queſtions to be put to miniſters who have been formerly ordained, at their admiſſion to pariſhes, and a formula to be ſubſcribed by them, tranſmitted to preſbyteries in the larger overtures, and returned with their remarks thereon, received a firſt reading, and were ordered to lie on the table till the next ſederunt." — I did not indeed entertain any ſuſpicion of ſuch an article's lurking in our eccleſiaſtical archives, ſince there is not the leaſt hint in the printed acts, that the Queſtions and Formula had ever been under the conſideration of preſbyteries before they were paſſed into a law.

There was, in my apprehenſion, a very extraordinary ſtretch of language uſed by the aſſembly 1711, when they affirmed, that the overtures, containing the Queſtions and Formula (which I ſhall call the *leſſer* overtures in contradiſtinction to the *larger*), which were read in their 10th, and enacted in their 12th ſeſſion, had been tranſmitted in the larger overtures. For what a wide difference was there between the one and the other? — In the larger overtures, which were firſt printed in 1697, and reprinted with great additions in 1705, there appeared neither any formula of ſubſcription, nor any queſtions to be put to ſtudents before licenſing, and to miniſters before admiſſion to new pariſhes. But the leſſer overtures, as the reader muſt have perceived already, exhibited both. Further, although the larger overtures had indeed queſtions to be put to probationers at their ordination, as well as the leſſer ones, theſe queſtions were neither ſo numerous, nor in their neceſſary meaning and unavoidable conſtruction ſo rigorous. — The queſtions propoſed in the larger overtures were only ſeven: in the leſſer they were nine. In the former the ſecond queſtion ſtood thus: "If the perſon to be ordained doth own, and will adhere to the confeſſion of faith and catechiſms of this church, and doctrine therein contained, founded upon and conſonant to the holy ſcripture." Whereas in the latter it was propoſed in this manner: "Do you ſincerely own and believe the whole doctrine contained in the confeſſion of faith, approven of by the general aſſemblies of this church, and ratified by law in the year 1690, to be founded upon the word of God?" And there was ſubjoined to it the following interrogatory, in order to prevent, if poſſible, all evaſion where there was any contrariety of ſentiment, however inconſiderable, or even heſitation to aſſent: "Do you diſown all Popiſh, Arian, Socinian, Bourignion, and other doctrines, tenets, and opinions whatſoever, contrary to and inconſiſtent with the foreſaid confeſſion of faith?" [xxxi. 121.]. — Nevertheleſs, in all the acts of aſſembly which ſpeak of the larger overtures before this period, there is a reference to one or other of thoſe two editions of them; and there is no intimation, either in MS or print, ſo far as I can learn, that they ever were moulded anew through the interval from their republication in 1705, and in any altered form tranſmitted to preſbyteries. Surely then there was here odd ſtraining of expreſſions. But there was a neceſſity to advance ſome ſhew of tranſmiſſion, that the leſſer overtures might be ſpeedily turned into a ſtatute. For though Philalethes, in our time, hath attempted to prove, that this might have been done without tranſmiſſion, in perfect conſiſtence with the barrier-act, that aſſembly thought otherwiſe; therefore they contrived to ſay that they had been tranſmitted in the larger overtures; and, by the help of this ſhift, proceeded to injoin them within forty-eight hours after their firſt appearance at the aſſembly-table.

I now proceed to another remark, and it is deciſive. Even admitting the leſſer overtures to have been tranſmitted to preſbyteries

byteries in the larger ones (which however is proved not to have been the caſe), yet ſtill there was an invincible objection againſt their being made a ſtanding rule by the aſſembly 1711. For the barrier-act required, that before any new regulation ſhould be enacted, it ſhould firſt be paſſed as an overture by the aſſembly, *i. e.* ſhould be by that ſupreme court heard, and approved as a fit and expedient propoſal, and be thereon remitted by them to the conſideration of preſbyteries, in order to its being converted into a law by a future aſſembly when they ſhould receive a report of the general conſent of the church unto it. But thoſe larger overtures, which in their original ſtate were neither the work of any aſſembly's committee of overtures, nor the production of any ſubordinate judicatory of the church, but only a private compoſition, were not paſſed at all as overtures by the aſſembly 1697, which firſt ſubjected them to the conſideration of preſbyteries. Indeed they were ſo far from obtaining that aſſembly's ſanction, as overtures which they thought proper to be enacted if the majority of preſbyteries ſhould agree thereto, that they were never read in their hearing, and only appointed, upon the report of a committee, to be ſent as overtures from private hands to the ſeveral preſbyteries, that, with the aſſiſtance of their obſervations thereon, which they were ordained to communicate, overtures might be thence prepared by their commiſſion againſt the meeting of the enſuing aſſembly, which the aſſembly ſhould paſs as overtures, and tranſmit to preſbyteries, or not, as they might think expedient. Even after all the pains taken about them by ſubſequent aſſemblies, in appointing committees to conſider them, with the remarks of preſbyteries, before they underwent their ſecond edition, they were republiſhed without ever being read in any aſſembly or commiſſion, [*ſee Pref. to edit. 2. of the large overtures and acts of aſſ.* 1704.]; on which account they continued to be viewed in the ſame light as before, namely, as a ſort of mine replete with rough materials, from which overtures might be taken, and gradually made ready for being introduced into the aſſembly, and paſſed by them as ſuch, to be afterwards enacted, or not, as ſhould ſeem wiſe to the ſupreme judicatory of the church in its annual meeting, after they underſtood the ſenſe of preſbyteries thereon. By conſequence, then, the aſſembly 1711, inſtead of eſtabliſhing thoſe leſſer overtures, containing the queſtions and formula now uſed, into a rule and conſtitution, even though it could have been ſaid with the ſtricteſt truth, that they had been tranſmitted to preſbyteries in the larger overtures, and returned with their remarks, ought, in conformity to the barrier-act, to have ſtopped at hearing, and paſſing or approving them as overtures, and ordering them, after they were clothed with this importance, to be ſubjected to the judgement of preſbyteries, whether they ſhould be made a ſtanding law or not; ſince theſe larger overtures themſelves had never till then been treated with ſuch honour and reſpect by the church as to intitle them to be viewed in the light of overtures of any of its general aſſemblies. There was the greater reaſon for their acting with this warineſs, becauſe theſe leſſer overtures were not brought in at that time by the commiſſion of the former aſſembly, to whom it had been recommended to make amendments on the larger overtures, after weighing the remarks of preſbyteries on them, (ſuch preſbyteries as were ſtill deficient in ſending their animadverſions thereon having been deſired, for this purpoſe, to tranſmit them to the clerk of the commiſſion againſt their meeting in Auguſt), and to preſent them to this enſuing aſſembly in ſuch manner corrected and reformed. For though there is no account in the record by whom they were produced, more than if they had dropped from the clouds, or ſprung up from the ground, it is very certain, nothing of this nature had been prepared for them by the commiſſion.

This concluſion obviouſly follows, from conſidering the ſenſe of the barrier-act, and the procedure held about the larger overtures from 1697 downwards; and is rendered manifeſt, when we recollect, that in the very way which was upon this occaſion neglected, the general aſſemblies conducted themſelves with regard to other overtures, which might have been affirmed with equal or greater truth to have been tranſmitted to preſbyteries, in the larger overtures, and returned with their remarks on them, than the overtures conſiſting of the queſtions and formula. I inſtance in the overtures, concerning the form and method of procedure againſt ſcandalous perſons, *acts of aſſ.*

aff. from 1698 to 1705; — about the form of proceſs, *acts aff.* 1704 to 1707: — of rules to be obſerved in admitting to trials and licenſing probationers, *acts aff.* 1708, 1710, 11; — about admiſſion of infants to baptiſm; — ſome of which were thus remitted once and again; and with reſpect to the laſt, this very aſſembly 1711 proceeded in this ſlow and circumſpect courſe, though they were a very exact tranſcript from the larger overtures, and were tranſmitted from their own committee for overtures to them, after they had been propoſed to that committee by another committee, which had been appointed to conſider the larger overtures, and the remarks of preſbyteries on them."

The above is but about a third part of the letter; we muſt not however omit to take notice, that, notwithſtanding the irregularity above pointed out, our correſpondent expreſſes great regard for the members of the aſſembly 1711; — "who are now, [ſays he], I ſuppoſe, all laid in their graves; having myſelf entertained a high eſteem of ſome of them upon perſonal knowledge, and been trained up in great reſpect for more of them, on account of their piety, diligence in paſtoral work, and other commendable qualities."

The letter concludes thus: "The act eſtabliſhing the formula and queſtions appears therefore to have been paſſed in a way contrary to that capital law in our conſtitution, the barrier-act; and conſequently it is of no force and validity. Why however ſhould any be uneaſy, though the formula of ſubſcription enacted by the aſſembly 1711 were ſet aſide, and the declaration of aſſent to the confeſſion of faith preſcribed by parliament in 1693 uſed in its ſtead, or at leaſt an alternative allowed between them? By this alteration, while there would not be the ſame diſcouragement to a ſpirit of religious inquiry as at preſent, there would ſtill be a ſufficient ſecurity againſt the entrance of men into the miniſtry who did not agree with the compilers of the confeſſion as to the ſum and ſubſtance of the Proteſtant religion; I mean, if perſons were to act honeſtly and ſincerely: and if not, of what avail can the moſt rigorous formula be, to exclude thoſe who hold oppoſite opinions, whenever it becomes neceſſary to ſwallow it for the ſake of a ſubſiſtence in the way of that profeſſion unto which they have been bred? — *I am, &c.*

PHILELEUTHERUS."

MARRIAGES.

Nov. 6. At Hoſpiſdale, Sutherlandſhire, Mr James Duncan of Dornoch, to Miſs Betty Dunbar, niece to Robert Gray of Airdinſh, Eſq;

Dec. 5. John Cadell, Eſq; of Glenquoy, to Miſs Mary Buchan, daughter of John Buchan, Eſq; of Lethem.

5. At Edinburgh, the Rev. James Rudd, B. A. miniſter of St Paul's chapel in Edinburgh, to the Hon. Mrs St Clare, widow, daughter of the late Lord Duffus.

Duncan Macdonell of Glengary, Eſq; to Miſs Grant, daughter of Sir Lewis Grant, of Delvey, Bt.

8. At Dumfries, Robert Douglas of Longtown, Eſq; to Miſs Boyd.

11. At Burntiſland, Mr James Dickſon bookſeller in Edinburgh, to Miſs Greig, ſiſter to Admiral Greig, in the Ruſſian ſervice.

26. At London, Sir Willoughby Aſton, Bt, to Lady Jane Henley, ſiſter of the Earl of Northington.

BIRTHS.

Dec. 24. At Calder, the Hon. Mrs Stirling, of twins, a ſon and a daughter.

26. At Edinburgh, the lady of Sir John Sinclair of Murkle, Bt, of a ſon.

28. At London, the Viſcounteſs Weymouth, of a ſon.

"*Berlin, Dec.* 5. On Saturday, Nov. 28. the Infant of which the Princeſs Ferdinand was lately delivered [638.], was baptized at the country palace of Fredericksfeldt. The ſponſors were, his Pruſſian Majeſty, who ſtood in perſon, the Prince of Orange, and the Margrave of Schwedt. The Infant was named FREDERICK-WILLIAM." *L. Gaz.*

DEATHS.

At London, John Macintoſh, aged 113.

Nov. At Roye, in Picardy, Margaret le Seuer, a nun, aged 101.

In Dublin, the Earl of Meath. He is ſucceeded in title and eſtate by his eldeſt ſon.

At his ſeat of Clontarf, near Dublin, the Hon. Mr Rochford, younger brother of the Earl of Belveder.

Dec. 4. At Dundee, Capt. John Reid, commander of the Princeſs Caroline, a cuſtomhouſe yacht.

6. At Kennethmont, Aberdeenſhire, Mrs Margaret Forbes, youngeſt daughter of the Hon. Archibald Forbes, late of Putachie.

7. At Biſhop's Court in the iſle of Man, of a paralytic ſtroke, Dr Mark Hildeſley, Biſhop of Sodor and Man. He died in the 72d year of his age, after having ſeen the Old and New Teſtament tranſlated and printed in the Manks language; a deſign which he frequently expreſſed his deſire of living to accompliſh.

8. At

8. At Windſor, Lady Clutterbuck, ſiſter of the late Earl of Dyſart.

At Truro in Cornwall, Mr John Richardſon, a tradeſman in that town, aged 107.

10. At Whittingham, Eaſt Lothian, Barbara Wilſon, an old maid, aged 120. She was henwife in Drummelzier's family, in which family ſhe had lived as a ſervant moſt part of her life. She was ſo remarkable a genealogiſt of her feathered flock, as to be able to reckon to the tenth generation. Her corpſe was carried to the grave by females, (of whom there was a great number, uniformly dreſſed), and interred with great decency. No male perſon was admitted.

10. At her ſeat of Dunham Maſſey in Cheſhire, in the 69th year of her age, Mary Counteſs-dowager of Stamford.

12. At his houſe of Little Ealing in Middleſex, Sir Robert Wilmot, of Oſmaſton in Derbyſhire, Bt, Secretary to the Earl of Hertford, Lord Chamberlain of his Majeſty's houſehold. He is ſucceeded in title and eſtate by his eldeſt ſon, Robert.

13. At Weſterhall, Sir James Johnſton of Weſterhall, Bt.

13. At her houſe in Dundee, Mrs Iſabel Dempſter, widow of Thomas Blair, Eſq; of Glaſclune.

14. At Beenham Place, Berks, Thomas Craven, Eſq; Rear-Admiral of the Blue, uncle of Lord Craven, and member for the county of Berks.

17. or 18. In the pariſh of Borthwick, aged 100 years within a few days, John Dryburgh, who procured a living by ſelling ſalt. He was a remarkably merry man, and uſed to entertain his cuſtomers by ſinging dorgrel verſes of his own compoſition.

Mrs Cooper, of Chirton in Wiltſhire, a farmer's widow, aged 104.

21. At Bath, Mr Charles Abercromby, deputy-commiſſary-clerk of Edinburgh.

21. Mr Alexander Cuningham merchant in Glaſgow.

At Eamont-bridge, near Penrith, James Bell, aged 113. He was a Dutchman by birth, and came over to England with K. William.

At London, Lt-Col. Gordon Graham, of the Royal Highlanders.

25. At Bruſſels, aged 101, Eliſabeth de Val. She never eat a bit of fleſh, nor taſted of any kind of broth or ſoup, during the whole courſe of her life.

26. At Edinburgh, Mr Hugh Gray, merchant and late one of the Bailies of Edinburgh.

27. At Mr Garden's houſe of Middletown, in the county of Forfar, Mrs Eliſabeth Arbuthnot, Lady Balwylls.

27. At Aberdeen, George Turner, Eſq; of Menzie, advocate in Aberdeen.

31. At his ſiſter's houſe at Highworth, Wilts, William Naſh, Eſq; Alderman of Walbrooke-ward, to which he was elected in 1766, and ſerved the office of Lord Mayor laſt year.

Preferments.

From the London Gazette.

The King has been pleaſed,

Dec. 5. to grant the dignity of a Baronet of Great Britain unto James Wright, Eſq; Governor of Georgia in America.

to grant unto William Eddington, Eſq; the office of Inſpector of the Out-ports Collectors Accounts within England.

8. to appoint Daniel De Laval, Eſq; to be his Majeſty's Agent in the cities of Rotterdam, Dordrecht, and Schiedam, and town of Delftſhaven upon the Maeſe, in Holland.

19. to grant unto Leonard Thompſon, Eſq; the office of Maſter or Regiſter and the taking cogniſance of the free conſents of ſuch perſons as ſhall voluntarily go or be ſent as ſervants to any of his Majeſty's plantations in America or elſewhere.

From other papers, &c.

9. A grant paſſed the great ſeal, Dec. 9. to Sir Thomas Parker, late Chief Baron of the court of Exchequer, of an annuity of 2400 l. per annum, to commence from the day he reſigned the ſaid office, and payable the laſt day of every term, in like manner as the Judges in Weſtminſter Hall are paid.

The Edinburgh bill of burials for December 1772.

Within the city	Males 23	55	94.	Incr. 29.
	Fem. 32			
In the Weſt-kirk-yard	Males 15	39		
	Fem. 24			

Age.			N°	Diſeases.	N°
Under		2	23	Aged	8
Between	2 &	5	10	Aſthma	3
	5 &	10	12	Bowelhive	3
	10 &	20	3	Chincough	6
	20 &	30	6	Conſumption	27
	30 &	40	5	Cramp in ſtomach	1
	40 &	50	8	Dropſy	2
	50 &	60	10	Fever	17
	60 &	70	9	Gravel	2
	70 &	80	4	Jaundice	1
	80 &	90	4	Periſhed in water	1
	90 &	100	0	Small pox	10
				Stillborn	4
				Teething	5
				Water in the head	1

Edinburgh, Jan. 18. 1773. Oat-meal, 1s. 1 d. Bear-meal, 8 d. 2 f. Peaſe-meal, 9 d.

Prices of grain at Haddington, Jan. 8. 1773.

	Beſt.	*Second.*	*Third.*
Wheat,	23 s. 6 d.	21 s. 2 d.	19 s. 6 d.
Bear,	19 s. 0 d.	18 s. 2 d.	16 s. 4 d.
Oats,	15 s. 0 d.	14 s. 4 d.	13 s. 2 d.
Peaſe,	15 s. 3 d.	14 s. 6 d.	13 s. 0 d.